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THE AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,895

TUESDAY 13 APRIL 1999

(IR50p) 45p

## THE INFORMATION DAILY

BRITAIN'S BEST ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE REVIEW, PAGES 15-18

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# Nato attack on train kills ten

BY ROBERT FISK  
in Belgrade

NATO JETS blasted a Yugoslav passenger train off a railway bridge in southern Serbia yesterday, killing at least 10 people and bringing to well over 60 the number of civilians to have died at the alliance's hands in the past two weeks. Nato spokesmen said they "regretted" civilian casualties on the train - part of which caught fire when two carriages plunged into a ravine - but claimed that the railway track was "an important military supply line". The Yugoslav government called it a "criminal attack".

Two missiles were fired by a Nato jet at the bridge near Leskovac, 200 miles south of Belgrade as the passenger train, apparently on route from the Serbian capital via Skopje to Thessalonika in Greece, was on a span above the deep gorge of the Morava river. Initial reports suggested that the first missile brought down cables and immobilised the electric locomotive hauling the carriages - Yugoslav State Railways train No 393 - over the chasm. The second missile exploded beside the carriages, blasting two of them right off the bridge and setting fire to others.

Good-covered debris lay on the bridge and most of the dead, who included a 10-year-old child, were reported to have been burned alive. Nabisa Vujetic, the Yugoslav foreign ministry spokesman, said that several Greek journalists were travelling home on the train from Belgrade. A road crosses the gorge at the same point as the railway bridge near Leskovac but the Nato jet appeared to be aiming at the track.

Nato is believed to possess film of the attack - although it did not choose to make the tape public last night as it normally does after its air raids - and a Nato spokesman in Brussels said its bombing attacks on Yugoslav targets would continue. An oil refinery was hit on Monday morning and another



A British soldier drives a Challenger tank through a field during a military exercise in Petrovec, Macedonia yesterday. Nato currently has 10,000 troops in the country

Oleg Popov/Reuters

missile smashed into the giant Zastava car factory at Kragujevac where 120 Serb workers were wounded last week. While it insists that it takes "every precaution" to prevent civilian casualties, Nato's attacks have been so broadened in the past 10 days that large numbers of Serb civilian deaths have become inevitable.

A Nato jet - believed by Yugoslav forces to be an RAF Harrier - killed up to 24 civilians at Aleksinac 10 days ago while another Nato air strike on the civilian centre of Pristina last week killed 10 civilians, half of them Muslims. Civilians were driving over the river Danube at Novi Sad north of Belgrade last week when a Nato missile struck the bridge. Only a miracle saved the motorists from plunging into the river.

Nato's regrets are becoming routine. It said that a "malfunction" in a bomb aimed at a military target may have been responsible for the Aleksinac slaughter and yesterday again expressed its sorrow at the killings near Leskovac. Even as it did so, Nato foreign ministers insisted that it would continue with its air bombardment of Yugoslavia because the killings and suffering of Kosovo Alban-

ian refugees at Serb hands represented a "fundamental challenge to the values of democracy and human right and the rule of law". The bombing would continue until President Slobodan Milosevic withdrew his military units from the Serbian province. Nato said.

Yesterday evening, James Shea, Nato's spokesman in Brussels, acknowledged that there was a train "on or near" the Leskovac bridge at the time of the air strike. "But I want to stress very strongly indeed that there was no intention whatever to cause damage on the train," he said. "Nato has

gone to extraordinary lengths to avoid collateral casualties during its operations." But the broadening of Nato's attack rules to include bridges and railways mean that it is prepared to risk killing civilians. Nato's initial attacks against Yugoslavia were almost exclusively targeted on military barracks and air defence locations - so specifically that even Yugoslav army officers acknowledged their accuracy. But once the alliance decided to attack ordinary transport systems, it knew that civilians would inevitably be killed. Any road in Yugoslavia can be called

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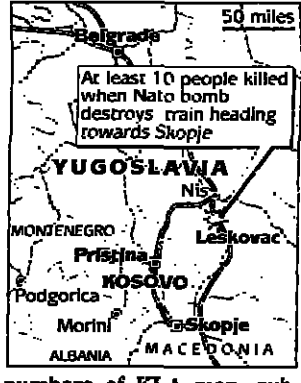
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count tallies with statements given to Ms Miria. "There appear to be two methods emerging," she said. "Women are either taken from lines of refugees at borders - usually because they are young and attractive - or they were taken away during the ethnic cleansing, when the men were separated from the women."

No one knows what the future holds for Sabije (not her real name) or others like her. In any society, her recovery would be hard. Today, it has to be made in a tent on a muddy campsite beside a municipal swimming pool in rain-soaked Tirana.

a "military supply line" - it was a phrase used by western forces every day during the 1991 Gulf war to justify attacks which killed civilians in Iraq. Aerial reconnaissance pictures would have shown Nato planners that Yugoslav passenger trains were still running scheduled services on many lines.

Serbia claimed last night that it had killed 150 Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas - the Belgrade authorities, as usual, called them "terrorists" - during a battle in a forest near Morina close to the Albanian border. Yugoslavia regularly says that it has killed large



At least 10 people killed when Nato bomb destroys train heading towards Skopje

## Victims tell harrowing tales of rape

SHE HAD almost made it out of Kosovo when she was abducted from the ranks of refugees by Serb soldiers and raped. She was 14 and a virgin. She has been too traumatised to tell doctors in Albania how many times she was violated or by how many men, but her trauma is being shared by her father. He was forced to march on at gunpoint as they took his daughter away.

This is one of a growing number of harrowing stories stored in a shiny red dossier by Silvia Miria, a psychologist and director of the Counselling Centre for Women and Girls in the

Albanian capital. Her crusade to bring the rapes to the attention of war crimes investigators is being run from a grimy apartment block south of central Tirana. Relying on donations from aid agencies, she and 14 other counsellors, psychiatrists and social workers are visiting refugee camps to offer help and to document claims.

In the past few weeks she has gathered the testimonies of more than 100 witnesses to Serb acts of rape and sexual violence. She also has six victims

who have come forward with personal testimony, and this is a rarity in the Kosovars' overwhelmingly rural Muslim community, where any discussion of sex, let alone rape, is seen as shameful.

Ms Miria believes that for every known case, there are many more that will go unreported. "It takes a great deal of courage to speak about it," she said yesterday. "But these women believe they have been victims not only of rape, but of a war crime. It is the only thing keeping them alive."

Another reason for women's reluctance to testify is their

abysmal plight. The victims are living in poor conditions, either in overcrowded refugee camps at Kukes, in northern Albania or in municipal buildings in Tirana that include former gymnasiums, basketball halls - even a disused mental hospital.

"There is the stigma," said Ms Miria, "but there is also the trauma of the war. They're simply too devastated to come forward yet." Clutching the dossier, she added: "I am keeping their testimony and gathering more evidence for the war crimes investigators."

Accounts of the rape of up to 30 young women at the border

crossing of Vermice between Kosovo and Albania emerged yesterday in the Italian media. The reports spoke of a family who claimed to have seen women dragged from a convoy and into a nearby field where their screams could be heard by passing refugees. One witness, Burbeqe Kastrioti, a 17-year-old from Dushanov, said she escaped because she and her sister, Libode, 15, dressed in their father's old clothes and put mud on their faces.

"We tried to make ourselves look horrible," she said. "I thought, 'If they rape me, then I'll kill myself.' Burbeqe's ac-

count tallies with statements given to Ms Miria. "There appear to be two methods emerging," she said. "Women are either taken from lines of refugees at borders - usually because they are young and attractive - or they were taken away during the ethnic cleansing, when the men were separated from the women."

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## Shock! Eurocrat abandons his limo

THE NEW head of one of the world's most lavish, bureaucratic and controversially extravagant organisations arrived in London to meet Tony Blair yesterday. You may have spotted him on the Gatwick Express to Victoria station.

European bureaucrats are normally seen in chauffeur-driven limousines bearing the flag of the EU. But Romano Prodi, the European President elect, set a record for ab-

stemiousness when he flew on a scheduled flight to Gatwick, caught a train and then got in line to wait for a black cab to take him to Downing Street.

As taxis are not allowed to the front door of No 10, for security reasons, the former Prime Minister of Italy, appointed by the heads of the European governments to his

£158,000 a year post, made the last leg of his journey by foot. Downing Street officials were "surprised but delighted" with the lack of pomp shown by Mr Prodi for his first official engagement in London. He was Mr Blair's nominee to clean up the European Commission after the revelations of lavish living and nepotism led to the resignation of Jacques Santer and his team.

His unprecedented fiscal re-

straint stood in contrast to that of the British Euro MP Pauline Green, who helped to bring down Santer. When she flies back to the UK from Brussels she is met at Heathrow by her chauffeur who makes the same trip by road and Eurostar.

The European Commission in London was also surprised by Mr Prodi's visit. "He didn't make any arrangements for his visit through us. He is the president elect, and he didn't

notify us... We only have one car but we normally organise an appropriate car for commissioners in London."

Mr Prodi discussed with Mr Blair the reforms he intends to bring to the Commission, before retracing his journey on public transport to Gatwick for a flight to Bonn, leaving at least one cabbie with the rare chance to boast to his customers: "I had that Euro President in my cab the other day."

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786, BASKETBALL 787, VOLLEYBALL 788, SOCCER 789, TENNIS 790, GOLF 791, HOCKEY 792, RUGBY 793, BASEBALL 794, BASKETBALL 795, VOLLEYBALL 796, SOCCER 797, TENNIS 798, GOLF 799, HOCKEY 800, RUGBY 801, BASEBALL 802, BASKETBALL 803, VOLLEYBALL 804, SOCCER 805, TENNIS 806, GOLF 807, HOCKEY 808, RUGBY 809, BASEBALL 810, BASKETBALL 811, VOLLEYBALL 812, SOCCER 813, TENNIS 814, GOLF 815, HOCKEY 816, RUGBY 817, BASEBALL 818, BASKETBALL 819, VOLLEYBALL 820, SOCCER 821, TENNIS 822, GOLF 823, HOCKEY 824, RUGBY 825, BASEBALL 826, BASKETBALL 827, VOLLEYBALL 828, SOCCER 829, TENNIS 830, GOLF 831, HOCKEY 832, RUGBY 833, BASEBALL 834, BASKETBALL 835, VOLLEYBALL 836, SOCCER 837, TENNIS 838, GOLF 839, HOCKEY 840, RUGBY 841, BASEBALL 842, BASKETBALL 843, VOLLEYBALL 844, SOCCER 845, TENNIS 846, GOLF 847, HOCKEY 848, RUGBY 849, BASEBALL 850, BASKETBALL 851, VOLLEYBALL 852, SOCCER 853, TENNIS 854, GOLF 855, HOCKEY 856, RUGBY 857, BASEBALL 858, BASKETBALL 859, VOLLEYBALL 860, SOCCER 861, TENNIS 862, GOLF 863, HOCKEY 864, RUGBY 865, BASEBALL 866, BASKET

**"I cannot say whether we are going to fight our way in or there may be a surprise for all of us"**  
**Kofi Annan, of the UN**

**BY STEPHEN CASTLE** in Brussels

**Mr Solana said a stabilisation**

Although the continuing ethnic cleansing in Kosovo has

Nato foreign ministers gathering in Brussels yesterday morning, where they urged Russia to help in the diplomatic moves for peace

As yet there is no agreement about the type, or command structure, of an international force, although Mr Cook insisted any such deployment would be under Nato command and control, and that dual command was not a possibility.

## BRIEFING: DAY 20

She added a warning that it was "Milosevic's responsibility to make sure that they do not

**"It appears that Belgrade is deliberately depriving them of food and shelter. Either Milo-**

Mr Cook said that air drops,

**jsa Vujovic, dismissed the air-drop plans as a propaganda stunt designed to draw atten-**

leg," Nuredin Malaj, of the Central Military Hospital in Tirana, said.

- A total of 16 RAF Harrier sorties were flown yesterday.
- Kosovo Albanian refugees continued to stream across borders into Albania and Macedonia. There are an estimated 620,000 refugees and 720,000 internally displaced persons.
- Seized pirate designer clothing worth £254,900 - with labels such as Armani, Ralph Lauren and Kickers - is being sent by Devon County Council to Kosovo refugees.
- Medical and sanitation facilities are severely limited for refugees in northern Albania where about 10,000 blankets were distributed yesterday.
- 1,358 people left Macedonia for third countries yesterday. Camps at Braza in Macedonia contain about 28,000 refugees.
- British troops continue to provide heavy equipment such as forklifts to help with food distribution.
- Médecins Sans Frontières has taken over the provision of medical services from Nato troops in Macedonia.
- HMS *Invincible* is expected to arrive in the Adriatic on Thursday 15 April.

BRITAIN TODAY

**Noon today**

**KEY**

14 Temperature, °C  
30 Wind speed, mph and direction

The map shows the following approximate data points:

- London: 14°C, Wind 30 mph SE
- Birmingham: 12°C, Wind 20 mph E
- Manchester: 10°C, Wind 15 mph W
- Glasgow: 8°C, Wind 10 mph W
- Edinburgh: 6°C, Wind 10 mph W
- Newcastle: 10°C, Wind 15 mph E
- Liverpool: 12°C, Wind 20 mph E
- Cardiff: 10°C, Wind 15 mph W
- Belfast: 8°C, Wind 10 mph W
- Sheffield: 10°C, Wind 15 mph E
- Nottingham: 12°C, Wind 20 mph E
- Leeds: 10°C, Wind 15 mph W
- York: 12°C, Wind 20 mph E
- Hull: 10°C, Wind 15 mph W
- Exeter: 12°C, Wind 20 mph E
- Plymouth: 10°C, Wind 15 mph W
- Sunderland: 10°C, Wind 15 mph E
- Southampton: 12°C, Wind 20 mph E
- Bristol: 10°C, Wind 15 mph W
- Reading: 12°C, Wind 20 mph E
- Oxford: 10°C, Wind 15 mph W
- Cambridge: 12°C, Wind 20 mph E
- London: 14°C, Wind 30 mph SE

## FORECAST

**General situation:** Much of England and Wales will start bright but rather cold. There will be some sunny spells. Unseasonably cold all day with showers breaking out in the north-west this morning. These will turn heavy and wintry in places and will spread elsewhere later. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cold with a break in the afternoon as showers and showers. Many of the showers will fall as hail and snow, although sheltered parts of eastern Scotland may stay dry.

**London, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands:** Cold but some morning sunshine before heavy showers move this afternoon. A moderate to fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 7-8°C (45-46°F).

**Cost S England, Channel Is, SW England:** Early sunny spells but cold with showers and rain. A fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 7-10°C (45-50°F).

**Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man:** Cold and blustery with a few sunny intervals but also heavy showers, some of the showers wintry. A fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 5-8°C (41-46°F).

**Cent N, E & NE England:** Cold with showers, some heavy but the sun will come out again in between. A fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 5-8°C (41-46°F).

**NE & NW Scotland, Aberdeen, N & W Isles:** Very cold and windy with hail, sleet or snow showers and briny sunny spells. A strong to gale force north-westerly wind. Max temp 2-3°C (36-41°F).

**SE & SW Scotland, Edinburgh, Glasgow:** Some dry, sunny intervals but showers breaking out, especially in the west. Many of them wintry. A fresh north-westerly wind. Max temp 4-7°C (39-45°F).

**N Ireland:** Cold and windy with limited sunny spells and prolonged showers, some wintry. A strong north-westerly wind. Max temp 4-7°C (39-45°F).

## OUTLOOK

It will remain very cold tomorrow with sunny spells and scattered wintry showers. Eastern counties may also see some longer periods of rain. Thursday will be cold and unsettled with frequent showers and only limited sunny spells.

## TRAVEL

**London:** A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December.  
**Bristol:** M5 J18-19. New Motorway opening on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 23rd June 2001.  
**Worcestershire:** M42 Between J10 Tamworth services and J9 Sutton Coldfield. Roadworks and contrailion. Until 23rd April.  
**South Yorkshire:** M1 Between J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6109) & J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6178). Sheffield, Carrageways is reduced to two lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000.

**Chettnham:** Closed due to roadworks inland. Diversions in place. Until July. Co-Antaris. A1 Kingsway, Dunmurry. Roadworks, various lane restrictions. Until 1st August.

**Dorsetshire:** A6 Between Dorset Southern Bypass (A50) and Shawford Road roundabout. East of Alverstoke. Contrailion for work on new A50. Until 15th October.  
**A4 Roadworks:** Call 0336 401777 for details of local and national traffic news.  
**Source:** The Automobile Association, Calls

LIGHTING UP				EXTREMES			
Belfast	8.23pm	to	6.25am	Warmest: St. Mary's 12C (54F)			
Birmingham	8.02pm	to	6.13am	Coldest: (dew) Lerrwick (38F)			
Bristol	8.05pm	to	6.18am	Wettest: Spekeadam 20.0 mm			
Glasgow	8.16pm	to	6.16am	Sunniest: Torquay 4.0 hrs			
London	7.53pm	to	6.08am	For 24hrs to 2pm Monday			
Manchester	8.05pm	to	6.13am				
Newcastle	8.06pm	to	6.07am				
HIGH TIDES							
	AM	HT	PM	HT			
Acornmouth	5.42	11.8	6.10	12.1	Aberdeen	3.8	1.0
Cori	4.08	4.0	4.31	4.0	Anglesey	9.0	0.3
Dunport	4.09	4.8	4.45	4.9	Awmecore	1.7	3.3
Howe	5.09	5.0	10.09	5.2	Belfast	11.1	0
Dowr Loughaire	1.01	3.7	10.55	3.7	Birmingham	6.6	0
Folmout	1.42	4.6	4.16	4.7	Bournemouth	11.5	0
Gerrans	1.30	3.0	11.45	3.0	Bristol	11.1	0
Harwich	10.40	3.6	10.57	3.6	Caernarfon	9.7	0
Holyhead	5.04	5.1	9.40	5.1	Carmar	8.8	0
Nail (Alburt Dk)	9.07	7.2	5.13	7.9	Cromer	11.3	0
Rings Lymn	5.12	5.8	5.19	6.2	Edinburgh	5.2	0.5
Lalish	1.12	4.8	1.27	4.9	Exmouth	11.0	0
Liverpool	9.56	8.5	10.25	8.7	Fishguard	8.5	0.5
Milford Haven	4.49	6.0	5.17	6.1	Folkestone	9.0	0
Newquay	3.45	6.1	4.12	6.2	Glasgow	2.8	4.8
Portland	5.18	5.5	5.57	5.6	Grimsby	10.9	0
Scarborough	10.09	4.1	10.40	4.4	Hove	6.2	0
Swansea	6.52	4.1	7.18	4.2	Isle-of-mann	12.6	0.3
Portsmouth	2.52	4.9	2.58	5.1	Jersey	11.0	0.5
Wight	9.55	3.0	10.40	3.1	Kendal	1.1	1.8
Height measured in metres				Kilkeel	10.2	0.3	
				Lerrwick	5.4	1.5	
				Lithamington	10.2	0	
				London	9.1	0.1	
				Lowestoft	8.2	0	
				Manchester	7.9	0.3	
				Marazion	10.1	0.1	
				Morcambe	7.8	0.3	
				Newcastle	8.0	0	
				Norwich	11.7	0.3	
				Norwich	7.4	0	
				Oxford	10.2	0	
				Ross-on-wye	11.1	0	
				Salcombe	10.5	0	
				Scarborough	10.1	0	
				Shrewsbury	8.0	0	
				Stretton	10.2	0	
				Southport	9.3	0	
				Stornoway	1.5	7.1	
				Swanage	10.7	0	
				Torquay	9.4	0	
				Torquay	10.6	0	
				Weston-s-mare	11.9	0	
				Weymouth	11.9	0	

[illegible]



[illegible]



Vojislav Seselj (left), the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and Radical Party leader, rallying the Yugoslav federal parliament at a session on uniting with Russia and Belarus. The parliament voted overwhelmingly to join the loose union between fellow Slav countries. Reuters

# Serbs choose to unite with Russians

## PACT

By ROBERT FISK in Belgrade

HIS WAS the only voice that echoed round the 32 marble columns. He was the only MP to speak without notes. The man who once said that his Chetniks had graduated to "rusty shoe-horns" in putting out Croat eyes - black humour, he later protested - knew how to hold his audience.

The friend of Jean Marie Le Pen of France and the Russian extreme nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and acquaintance of Alexander Lukashenko, the President of Belarus, had no doubt that this was "one of the

most important moments in history". Yugoslavia, Vojislav Seselj told us all, must join the union of Russia and Belarus.

And it did, by God. Only four members of the joint Yugoslav parliament dared to vote against the motion yesterday - one was a long-bearded priest - and they were booed and wolf-whistled for their pains.

"Would you like to come over and join us here?" Mr Seselj, the Serbian deputy prime minister, taunted them from the Radical Party seats, raising his right hand in derision. "Would you like to join us?" There were many who did. One after another, MPs for the Democratic Party, the Serbian People's Party, the Serbian Renewal Party stood up to make their contribution to Slavic unity.

"It is binding," the foreign ministry spokesman, Nobojisa Vujevic, told me beside the members' dining-room a few minutes later. "Economic, military, this is a real union."

Growing a little plump in middle-age but with his trademark left forelock fringe as dark as ever, Mr Seselj - whose brutal militiamen fought their way through Croatia and Bosnia - went much further. "We don't have a single member who does not realise that our future lies in the East," he shouted. "There is not a single Orthodox person - not a single patriot - who has not turned to the East. We can say bad things about a mother and we have been angry with our mother - but Mother Russia assures us that we are not alone in this world."

The strikes against Yugoslavia, Mr Seselj told us, would not achieve Nato's aim. "Nato will break its teeth deep in the Balkans. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will never capitulate, even if they impose greater destruction on us. We are linked by history, culture and civilisation with Russia and Belarus."

He was the only one to talk of Mother Russia. The rest - Velizar Nikolic, Milan Perisic, Gorica Gasevic, even Momir Bulatovic, the Yugoslav federation's Montenegrin Prime Minister with his bushy stand-up hair and groomed moustache - sounded more like fraternal delegates of another generation.

We heard about aggression and "human potentials", about the violation of peace-loving peoples, of imperialism and world hegemony. Was it the union of Russia and Belarus that Yugoslavia was voting to join, or the Warsaw Pact? Mother Russia, if you believed what you heard in the Yugoslav parliament yesterday, was still the Soviet Union. "It was Seselj who

first went to Belarus and met Lukashenko," a Serb journalist remarked afterwards. "It's all the idea of the Radical Party. But even the Russian-Belarus union is not yet functioning."

It was, then, a political-propaganda gesture, but by no means an empty one. Vuk Draskovic's Serb Renewal Party had never been so keen on this Slavic amalgamation. But now Yugoslav MPs line up to show their patriotism, even if they have to dance with Cossacks on the Sava river bridge as part of Belgrade's human shield.

Russia, too, may be prepared to accept Yugoslavia's new allegiance. President Boris Yeltsin's proposals for contact group and G8 meetings were dismissively turned down by the West. And Russia - as every member of the Yugoslav parliament could tell you - is very angry.

Moscow may have national interests that go far beyond the Balkans, but many Yugoslav diplomats believe it could, ultimately, furnish military aid to Belgrade if the Nato strikes continue. If Yugoslavia is surrounded by Nato countries and with what Serbs call the "trying-to-be-Nato" countries, its neighbours could still feel Russia's anger. Hungary's agreement to allow a reduced Russian aid convoy to pass through its territory to Serbia (minus five armoured vehicles and half its fuel trucks) was a sign for Serbs that even Budapest does not want to enrage Moscow now.

"Nations which surrender themselves too easily to the West's plans are already feeling the negative impact," Mr Seselj announced. "The West wants to impoverish them... I know our decision will be universally approved by the federal parliament. It will give a better future for our children. We Serbian radicals must be one with the citizens of Russia and Belarus. This union cannot be negated."

There were suggestions in the parliament yesterday that Romania and Bulgaria should be asked to join the new Slavic union, that only an alliance between Belgrade, Minsk and Moscow could ensure "stability and international peace". It was all heady stuff.

At the start of yesterday's sitting, members stood for a moment's silence - in an auditorium built for the old Yugoslavia that stretched from Croatia to Macedonia - in memory of the dead from Nato's bombardment. Emotion was high. Realism less so, as the Serb journalist noted after the vote. "If we are expecting help from Belarus," he said, "we must commit suicide at once."

## US angry at Israel stance

### DIPLOMACY

By PATRICK COCKBURN in Jerusalem

THE UNITED STATES is expressing anger over Israel's refusal to give full support to Nato in the Kosovo crisis. Martin Indyk, US Assistant Secretary for Near East Affairs, is being highly critical during his visit to Israel of the pro-Russian tilt of Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Foreign Minister.

Mr Indyk suggested that Mr Sharon is refusing to condemn Serbian actions in Kosovo so he can cultivate the Russian Jewish immigrant vote in the Israeli elections next month.

The half-million Russian Jews in Israel will be a critical voting bloc in the 17 May election and are mainly sympathetic to Serbia. In an interview last week Mr Sharon said: "Two thirds of the Russian Israelis are for Bibi [Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister] now. If I can get that up over 70 per cent, that's it."

Mr Indyk reportedly said he did not believe Mr Sharon was acting without the support of the Prime Minister. He also criticised the government for expanding Jewish settlements on the West Bank.

Relations between Wash-

ington and Mr Netanyahu were already cool because of Israel's failure to implement the Wye Agreement with the Palestinians brokered by President Bill Clinton last year.

Russian immigrants have played a decisive role in the past two Israeli elections in 1992 and 1996, when the Israeli electorate was evenly split. They favour good relations with Russia, which is home to many of the 916,000 Jews still in the former Soviet Union.

Mr Sharon, now on his third visit to Russia in two months, says his main aim is to stop Russia aiding Iran to develop long-range missiles. Mr Netanyahu has distanced himself somewhat from Mr Sharon, and was yesterday expected to welcome more than 100 Albanian refugees flown from Macedonia. Israel already has a field hospital in Macedonia.

Israel's first poll to choose a new prime minister is on 17 May with a second round, if nobody wins more than half the votes, on 1 June. Ehud Barak, the candidate of Labour (now renamed One Israel) is marginally ahead in the polls.

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## 6/HOME NEWS

### Boy, 14, hired to remove asbestos

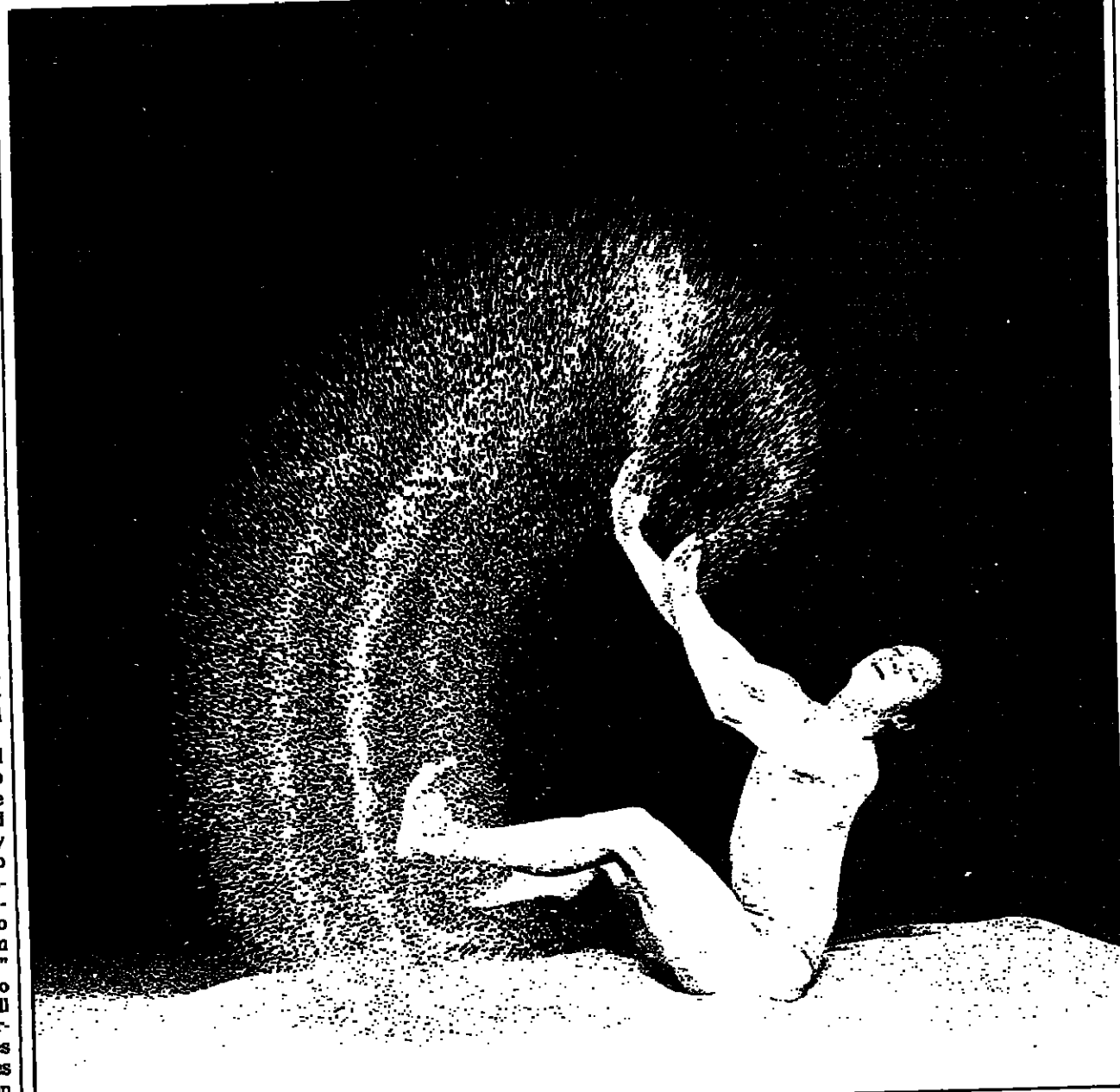
BY PAUL LASHMAR  
AND ANDREW MULLINS

TWO BUSINESSMEN who have left a potential death sentence hanging over three schoolboys pleaded guilty yesterday to using the teenagers to remove asbestos from a factory.

The former England athlete Andrew Medley and his brother Neil, who ran an asbestos-removal business, were on trial at Leeds Crown Court. It was told the brothers employed the boys, one aged 14, and two of 15, to remove the asbestos in 1996. The men admitted other offences involving removal and disposal of asbestos.

Judge John Cockcroft told them they would not go to prison but only because the law's maximum sentence did not permit it. But he said: "Only time will tell, in relation to cases of this sort, whether disease caused by exposure to asbestos will cause Parliament to look again at the maximum sentences for these offences."

The case was adjourned to Friday, when the brothers will be sentenced. The judge ordered that the other charges the brothers faced and charges against their firm should lie on file. He also imposed an order banning identification of the schoolboys.



Wu I-fang of Taiwan's Cloud Gate Dance Theatre rehearsing 'Songs of the Wanderers' yesterday. The show, which opens at Sadler's Wells in London today, uses three tons of rice to portray changing landscape. Andrew Burnman

## Ulster gloom as parties restart talks

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

NORTHERN IRELAND'S political parties reassemble at Stormont today for yet another attempt to break the arms de-commissioning impasse and pave the way for the formation of a new devolved government in Belfast.

The political atmosphere was less than encouraging yesterday, containing large amounts of uncertainty and the familiar pessimism so often felt about the prospects of progress in Northern Ireland.

None the less, the British and Irish governments and many local political elements still hope for a breakthrough, though few believe it will come about without days and probably nights of intense negotiation.

The crucial question is whether Sinn Féin and the IRA continue to set their faces against de-commissioning. The draft declaration published by Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, Prime Minister of the Republic, after the last session of talks said there must be "some arms put beyond use". This was set in the context of a "collec-

tive act of reconciliation". Sinn Féin has rejected the declaration, with republicans issuing several reiterations that de-commissioning is not on offer. However, the various statements stopped short of slamming the door on further discussions, and did not rule out discussion of the declaration's central concepts.

One of the first subjects for the new talks will be whether the republicans regard putting some arms beyond use as identical to de-commissioning. If they do, then the peace process will enter one of its greatest crises; if they do not then the belief will quickly grow that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

The talks will in the first instance be handled by the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, and the Irish Foreign Minister, David Andrews. Mr Blair and Mr Ahern appear to be on standby to go to Belfast, possibly on Thursday, though they may stay away in the event of a total impasse.

Failure to reach agreement could mean the talks might drag on into next week. Complicating factors will then come into play, including the marching season and the European election campaign.

Success would mean a new administration should be in existence before the summer; the two governments hoping it would have a stabilising effect and, in the longer term, provide a new model for republican and Unionist co-existence.

In the event of failure almost all the blame is likely to be laid at the door of Sinn Féin, given that both the Irish government and the SDLP subscribe to the idea of arms being put beyond use. It is thus likely that the republicans are about to experience huge pressure to come into line with the declaration.

The Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble said yesterday: "I have listened to a lot of the words that have come from republicans over the last week. I noticed that they don't repeat what IRA statements had contained until a fortnight ago - in other words, an adamant refusal to de-commission in any circumstances whatsoever. So I think we need to wait and see what their position actually is once they remove the verbiage."

Army bomb experts found firing packs yesterday for advanced ground-to-air missiles feared to be in the possession of the IRA. Two used battery packs for the powerful SAM-7 missile were discovered in isolated countryside near Finneroy, Co Tyrone, police said.

## UN links RUC to 1989 killing of Finucane

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK

A UNITED Nations human rights investigator repeated his call yesterday for an independent judicial inquiry into claims of security force collusion in the 1989 killing of the Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane.

The Malaysian jurist Dato Param Cumaraswamy said there was prima facie evidence of security force involvement in the murder and he called for the establishment of a Royal Commission of inquiry into the issue. Mr Finucane was shot dead in front of his wife and three young children by Ulster Freedom Fighters who burst into his home.

The RUC Chief Constable, Sir Ronnie Flanagan, said: "This is potentially damaging and I characterise it as being unfair in its allegations, not being based on evidence. I acted instantly on recommendations he had made, so to suggest there has been inaction and complacency is absolutely without foundation."

Mr Cumaraswamy also spoke at the UN human rights commission in Geneva on the car bomb murder last month of the solicitor Rosemary Nelson. He noted that she had lodged complaints against RUC officers and had expressed no

confidence in the force's investigatory mechanisms. Referring to the Finucane case, he said he was "even more convinced now that there is a stronger case made out for a Royal Commission into that murder to ascertain whether there was security forces, including RUC, collusion in that murder."

Sir Ronnie has called in outside police forces to investigate the Nelson killing. Yesterday the FBI, which is taking part, said it was fully confident that all appropriate lines of inquiry were being pursued. Speaking at RUC headquarters in Belfast, the FBI legal attaché John E. Guido paid tribute to the force's "very dedicated and professional inquiry team."

Norfolk Deputy Chief Constable Colin Port, who is to lead the investigation, said he would head a team of 50 officers from six different forces. "It is clear that without the involvement of RUC officers my investigation would be severely handicapped. Working together affords the greatest opportunity to prosecute those responsible for this vile and violent crime."

### IN BRIEF

#### Brooking is English sports chief

TREVOR BROOKING, aged 50, the football pundit and former England and West Ham star, was appointed yesterday as chairman of the English Sports Council, said Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary. Tony Banks, Sports minister, had lobbied for Tessa Sanderson, the former Olympic javelin champion, who will be offered the post of vice-chairman when it becomes vacant in September.

#### 'Hounding' secretary sentenced

GILLIAN HARTSHORNE, a secretary who hounded David Canter, a criminal psychologist, after he declined to put her on the permanent staff at Liverpool University was ordered by a court to do 240 hours' community service.

#### Boy, two, drowns in canal

A BOY aged two drowned after falling into a canal while on a day out with his parents, police said yesterday. Joe Hutcheon fell into the Leeds-Liverpool canal in Blackburn, Lancashire on Saturday afternoon.

#### Meningitis kills teenage girl

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl has died from meningitis, health chiefs said yesterday. Helen Driver, from Clitheroe, Lancashire, became ill on Friday and died in hospital on Sunday.

#### Coronation Street star bankrupt

BILL ROACHE has declared himself bankrupt because of the legal costs of proving he was not as boring as his Coronation Street character, Ken Barlow.

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# Bentleys will not get any payout

THE FAMILY OF Derek Bentley, whose conviction for murdering a policeman was quashed 45 years after the teenager was hanged, will not receive any compensation, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said yesterday.

By JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

He said the circumstances of the case fell outside the compensation scheme; he had considered using his discretionary powers to order a payout but decided against it. He also argued that the Court of Appeal judgment last July did not completely exonerate Bentley.

Bentley's niece, Maria Bentley-Dingwall, and his brother Dennis said they would seek a judicial review to try to overturn the ruling. Bentley's niece said she wept when she heard the news. "The compensation would have represented for my family some form of justice in a very small way."

Bentley, 19, was convicted with 16-year-old Christopher Craig of the shooting of Sidney Miles during a break-in at a confectionery warehouse in Croydon, south London, in 1952, although it was Craig who fired the fatal shot. Bentley was convicted on the word of policemen who said he told his accomplice: "Let him have it, Chris."

The jury was never told Bentley had a mental age of 11. Controversy over the case helped to fuel the campaign for abolishing capital punishment.

Bentley's conviction was overturned on the basis that the summing-up and direction to

the jury of the trial judge, Lord Chief Justice Lord Goddard, was flawed on several counts.

Yesterday Mr Straw said that because Bentley's conviction was overturned on the basis of mistakes by the judge, his case fell outside the compensation scheme. There were no other "sufficiently exceptional" circumstances leading up to his conviction to merit a payment. Mr Straw said: "I am deeply sorry Derek Bentley was executed as a result of a miscarriage of justice and that the quashing of his conviction has come so late ... My decision not to make a compensation payment must not be interpreted as detracting from Derek Bentley's acquittal."

Bentley's relatives intend challenging the decision in the English courts and, if necessary, the European Court of Human Rights.

Ms Bentley-Dingwall said: "As soon as they killed him my family gave up their lives to make sure he was exonerated. What price can you put on that? It's just a form of justice for us. We can't take anyone to court for Derek's killing. This is our only form of retribution. I really thought we would receive something."

No compensation payments have been made to relatives of people wrongfully executed. But it is believed the Home Office is preparing to pay relatives of Mahmood Mattan, executed in 1952 for murder and cleared last year.



A portrait by the Dutch Old Master, Frans Hals

EPA/Sinead Lynch



A page of the Rothschild Prayer Book, a Renaissance classic worth £3m Reuters

# Rothschilds to sell art looted by Nazis

MORE THAN £20m of paintings and other works of art belonging to one of Europe's wealthiest families, the Rothschilds, are to be sold in Britain. The sale will be the most important single-owner collection to come on to the UK art market.

The sale in July will be the culmination of a saga that started in 1938 with the Nazis seizing the Rothschild art treasures. The collection, belonging to the wealthy Barons Louis and Alphonse von Rothschild, was looted by the SS on 12-13 March 1938, within 24 hours of the Anschluss, Hitler's annexation of Austria.

The Austrian government received the collection back after the Second World War when American GIs discovered it hidden in a ski resort in the Austrian Tyrol.

It is believed that Nazi officials intended to put the collection on display at the proposed Hitler Museum in Linz, the Führer's home town.

The family had been trying to recover the treasures for many years. And in November 1998 the Austrian government finally passed a law whereby

By DAVID LISTER  
Arts News Editor

art looted by the Nazis was returned to its rightful owners.

Christie's has been asked to handle the sale of the 250 paintings, sculptures and items of furniture by the eldest Rothschild descendant, Bettina Looman, cousin of Lord Rothschild. She decided to auction the works of art as soon as the Austrian authorities gave permission for the collection to be exported.

The collection also contains scientific instruments, armour and rare Persian carpets.

Explaining the reasons for

the sale, Christie's chairman, Lord Hindlip, said: "The palace in which this collection was housed was reduced to rubble, so were their investments, their factories, their wealth-producing powers. The Rothschilds in Austria suffered in financial terms more than in any other part of the world."

Among the paintings are three portraits by the Dutch Old Master Frans Hals. One of the most striking is of the Amsterdam merchant Tieleman Roosterman. It is expected to fetch £3.5m. Alexander Hope, an Old Masters specialist at Christie's auction house, said the painting is one of Hals' finest: "Hals is a master of characterisation. For this painting to come on the market is extraordinary," he said.

The furniture includes a royal commode by Jean-Henri Riesener, supplied to King Louis XVI in 1778.

There are also two 16th-century manuscripts. One of them, worth £3m, is the Rothschild Prayer Book containing 67 full-page miniatures. It is considered one of the great achievements of Renaissance manuscript illumination.



The Rothschild family's coat of arms

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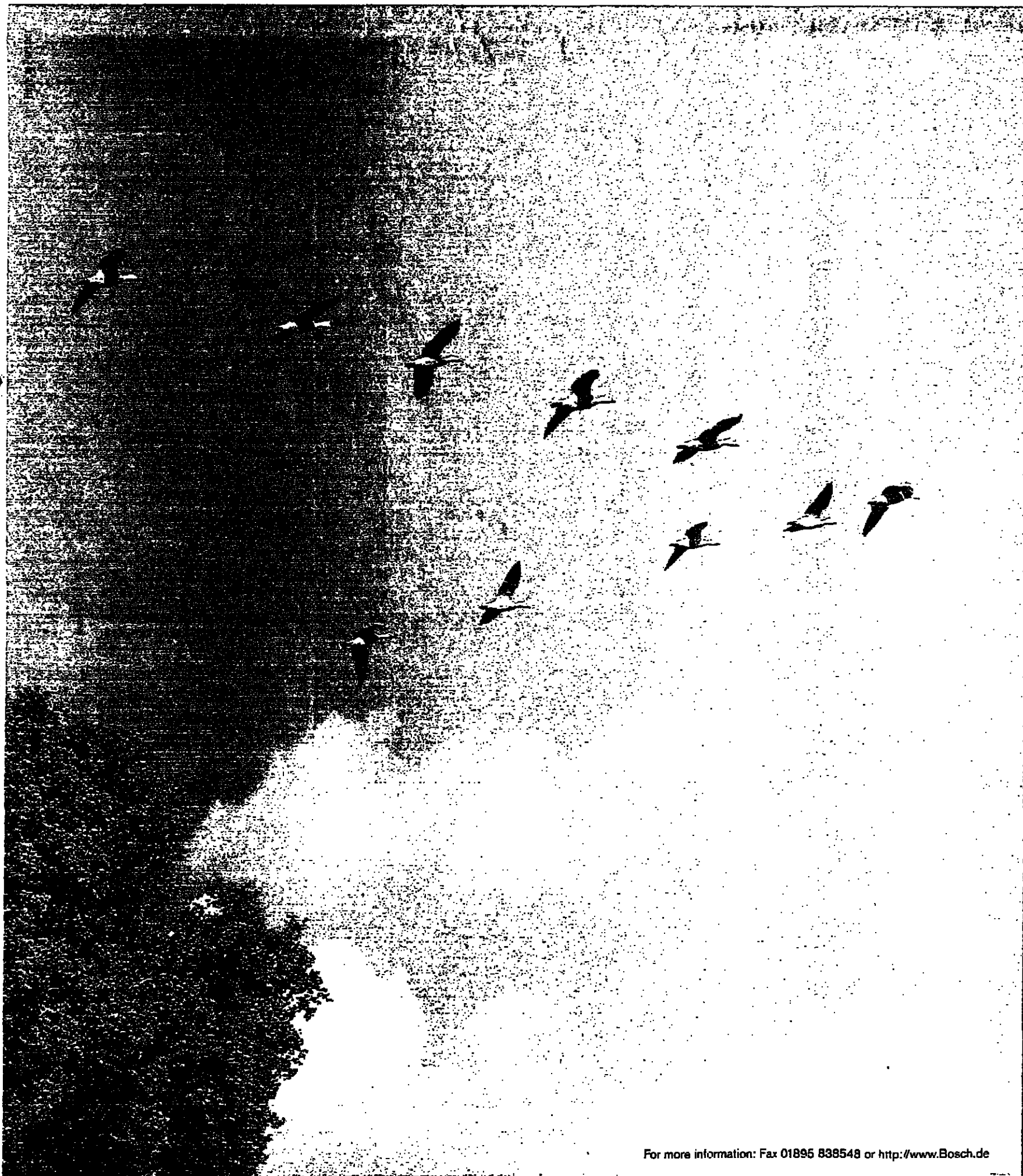
**English sports club**  
Six aged 37, the former captain of West Ham United was accused of the English Sports Club, the Culture Secretary, the ad lobbied for the club's survival when it became bankrupt.

**Secretary sentenced**  
CHINE, a secretary who had been sentenced to 10 years in prison for a crime she did not do.

**Browns in canal**  
rowed after falling into a canal, his parents, police said, rescued him into the London Underground where he was found.

**Kills teenage girl**  
id has died from a gunshot wound, Helen Driver, from Chichester, on Friday and died of a

**Street star bankrupt**  
a decided himself bankrupt, saying he was not a successful character, Ken Barlow



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# Protest jams cities and motorways

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

THOUSANDS OF lorry drivers jammed motorways and blocked city centres across Britain yesterday in the latest protest at big rises in road and fuel taxes.

In an unlikely alliance, truckers, pig farmers and taxi drivers converged on central London, causing traffic chaos and turning some roads into giant lorry parks.

Manchester city centre was brought to a standstill and lorries crowded into Edinburgh, Exeter, Plymouth, Newcastle, Truro and Middlesbrough. Motorways suffered major congestion, with the M1, M2, M4, M25 and M56 brought to a standstill by large numbers of trucks and police escorts.

In London a delegation of truckers marched on 10 Downing Street to hand in a petition, demanding urgent talks to resolve the crisis. But the Government rejected their demands, saying for the second time that it would not be "held to ransom" by protest action.



A convoy of trucks on the Mancunian Way, Manchester, yesterday during nationwide protests at increases in road and fuel taxes

The Road Haulage Association (RHA) warned that hundreds of small hauliers and family firms would be put out of business unless the Government backed down.

The RHA chairman, John

Bridge, told the truckers: "We are all here because we are devastated by the way that the Government has treated our industry - destroying us in a way that means in a year's time many of you will not be here

at all, which is unacceptable." He said that huge rises in vehicle excise duty and diesel duty were allowing continental hauliers, using environmentally unfriendly vehicles, to undercut British firms.

"The Government are destroying our industry and destroying small family businesses that have been going for many years and causing enormous personal anguish when people are losing their homes

and everything that they have spent their entire lives working for.

"We are going to go on and fight and fight and fight until common sense prevails."

The protests were co-

## WHERE DRIVERS BLOCKED THE ROADS

**Edinburgh**  
More than 40 vehicles making their way through the city bring disruption to roads for 90 minutes

**Manchester**  
Lorries escorted by police bring the M56 in Cheshire to a standstill on their journey to the centre. Convey scales through the city at 10mph

**Exeter**  
About 100 vehicles gather before joining others lorries from Truro in a journey on to Plymouth

**Truro**  
A stream of around 50 vehicles comes twice in a loop around the town centre as drivers sound their horns and slow down traffic

**Newcastle**

Ninety-three vehicles travel from nearby Gateshead and Heston in the morning and assemble near St James' Park football ground before holding a protest meeting

**Middlesbrough**  
Around 140 trucks form a one-and-a-half-mile convoy in the town centre. The protest lasts for two hours and causes severe congestion in the town and on the A66 approach road

**London**  
Roads into the capital are jammed as hundreds of lorries travel to Marble Arch where taxi drivers and farmers join the demonstration. Protesters later march to Downing Street

ordinated by Trans-action, a group set up in protest at the Budget measures. Frank Stears, an organiser, said some drivers were so angry that they were prepared to mount a Channel ports blockade.

"If we don't hear anything this week we will have talks about future action, but we don't know what it would be yet. Others want to take more drastic action, such as a blockade, which I don't want because it will upset everyone in the UK."

He said he was not asking the Government to rewrite the Budget but to hold talks with truckers. After a similar protest in London in February, the Government set up a forum of transport and Treasury ministers and heads of the Freight Transport Association and the Road Haulage Association.

But ministers refused to meet Mr Stears, prompting the RHA to switch its allegiance to Trans-action. Mr Stears said: "Let's have talks with Trans-action. Why not ask the people who actually do the job?"

John Reid, the Transport minister, condemned the truckers for "inflicting misery on the public rather than pursuing useful discussions". He said the Government had responded by setting up the industry forum. "The taxpayer cannot be expected to hand an open cheque to the road haulage industry. We will continue to work with the industry, but neither the Government nor the public will be held to ransom."

The Licensed Taxi Drivers Association said that some 1,000 cabbies had joined in the protest. "The continual increase in fuel prices is having the effect of a tax on taxi journeys," said a spokesman.

The National Farmers Union said that fuel tax rises were the latest blow to the pig industry following tougher welfare standards.

The issue has started to attract support from extreme right-wing groups. The British National Party was handing out leaflets yesterday.



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## Mardi bomber 'has part of brain missing'

THE MAN who admitted last week to being the Mardi Gra extortionist and bomber has part of his brain missing, it was claimed in court yesterday.

Edgar Pearce, 61, of Chiswick, west London, was due to be sentenced at the Old Bailey for a three-year terror and blackmail campaign aimed at Barclays Bank and Sainsbury supermarkets, plus a number of randomly selected companies and individuals in London and the South-east.

But after details of Pearce's condition emerged, the case was adjourned until tomorrow so a neuropsychiatrist could give evidence.

Pearce, who pleaded guilty to a blackmail campaign in which homemade bombs were hidden inside empty video cassette boxes, was remanded in custody by Michael Hyam, the Recorder of London. But the judge warned that Pearce should not raise his hopes of being sent to a hospital under the Mental Health Act, rather than to prison.

Judge Hyam added that there were "very scanty grounds" for thinking that a section under the Act would be appropriate, but he allowed the adjournment to ensure that the defendant received his rights.

Pearce's barrister, Nadine Radford QC, told the court that she had seen two reports from doctors, and had since spoken to one who believed Pearce

BY JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

may be suffering from Binswanger's dementia, a condition in which blood clots cause an area of the brain to die.

Pearce suffered a form of seizure or stroke in 1992, which resulted in a severe personality change. He was unaware of what had happened, but was under the impression that he had been knocked down by a bicycle when he collapsed. The court was told that although doctors had been unclear about what had happened to him, a recent scan had shown that part of his brain was missing.

Ms Radford argued that if he were sent to prison, instead of to a special hospital such as Broadmoor, his condition would deteriorate to dementia and early death. He needed special medical and psychiatric therapy to help him come to terms with his environment, she said.

Earlier, the court was told that Pearce got the idea for his bombing campaign from watching a television programme about a former police officer who tried to blackmail the food company Heinz.

The police caught Pearce after setting up an elaborate trap that involved hundreds of officers watching automatic cash machines. He was arrested in April last year after he attempted to withdraw money from a machine in west London.

## Solstice ban on Stonehenge ends

WILTSHIRE POLICE will not apply for the usual four-mile exclusion zone around Stonehenge this year over the summer solstice.

The landowner, English Heritage, says the stones will be closed to the general public although it intends to allow limited access to more than 100 people with bookings.

English Heritage is now in talks with police over security arrangements. The exclusion zone was brought in after violent clashes between police and new-age travellers at the so-called Battle of the Beanfield in 1985.

The ban was used to stop

BY ALLAN SMITH

numbers of vehicles and travellers converging near the monument site. Its success could be seen in the rapidly dwindling numbers over past years - and the lack of trouble.

But a recent ruling in the House of Lords held that the public had a right of passage-way along the highway, provided there was no nuisance or obstruction.

Last year about a hundred people attended the solstice celebrations at the stone circle, including Druids, pagans, astronomers, archaeologists and local residents.

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# Teach in Hull and housing is free

**TEACHERS ARE** being offered two years' free housing if they go to work in Hull. The education authority says it will provide good-quality homes at Bransholme, Europe's biggest housing estate, which has a notorious past as a place plagued by drugs and crime.

Councillors want to attract 23 new teachers to help to fulfil the Government's promise to reduce class sizes for children aged five to seven.

A council spokeswoman said: "We want to attract talented young teachers to Hull. This will also allow other teachers who want to come here to move without worrying about selling their houses."

Teachers will be offered two-year contracts and can move elsewhere if they wish.

The spokeswoman said the Bransholme estate had improved after council initiatives. "Many of the residents say the estate has a problem with perception rather than reality." If

BY JUDITH JUDD AND BEN RUSSELL

the scheme is successful, it may be extended.

A similar scheme was tried during the teacher recruitment crisis in the late Eighties. The Inner London Education Authority offered subsidised, but not free, housing. Neil Fletcher, education officer of the Local Government Association, said that scheme, which finished when Ilea was disbanded in 1990, had always been over-subscribed.

Figures published yesterday showed a fall in the proportion of children in classes over 30 at infant and junior level. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, said the Government was on target to meet its pledge to cut infant class sizes to 30 by 2001.

He said: "For the first time in 10 years we are seeing a fall in primary class sizes and an end to year-on-year increases



The Bransholme estate in Hull, which the local authority says no longer deserves its reputation as a centre for crime and drugs David Barr

in the number of pupils in large classes." He said the figures would confound critics, who have claimed that cuts in infant class sizes would increase class sizes for older children.

In January, there were 356,000 pupils aged five to seven in classes of more than 30, down from 485,000 the year before. Mr Blunkett pointed to figures showing an overall 12,000 increase in the number of primary school places and a slight fall in the proportion of junior school children in classes over 30. Average junior class sizes increased slightly.

"The fears raised by our critics are shown to have been without foundation," he said. "We have been able to ensure that significantly more children will be able to get into their first-choice school than would otherwise be the case."

"Twelve thousand extra places at popular schools will be provided to enhance parental choice across the country."

Three thousand infant school places had been lost in schools that were unable to expand reduced classes to 30 children - but "almost all" of the children who were displaced were offered places in schools where test results were as good or better. An extra 2,700 teachers had been taken on, Mr Blunkett said.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said that although average primary class sizes fell slightly, they were still larger than in 1997, with a slight increase in average class sizes for juniors.

"Two years ago Labour ministers condemned the Tory legacy on class sizes. They said a third of primary school children in classes of more than 30 was a 'shocking indictment' of the Tories. Yet under Labour nearly 32 per cent are in classes of more than 30," he said.

Theresa May, the shadow Schools minister, said the number of pupils aged five to seven

### HALL OF FAME

Hull gave the world the slavery abolitionist William Wilberforce, aviator Amy Johnson, poet Philip Larkin, actress Maureen Lipman, playwright John Godber, and John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister.

It has twinning links with Freetown, Sierra Leone, Rotterdam and Reykjavik.

Attractions include Hull Truck Theatre Company and the Ferens contemporary-art gallery.

It hosts the International Sea Shanty Festival, where visitors can enjoy shanty-singing and maritime-crafts demonstrations.

But locals recognise that the place has had an image problem summed up in the 16th-century saying: "From Hull, Hell and Halifax, good Lord deliver us." Councillors and business leaders recently went to New York to consult spin-doctors on how to change its image.

# Quarter of patients wait four days to see a doctor

**ONE IN** four people needing to see a GP has to wait at least four days for an appointment, according to a survey.

One in five said the wait was too long and, of those referred to a hospital specialist, one in three believed the condition worsened while they waited. One in seven said they waited in pain.

The findings from the first

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

national government survey of patients' views of the National Health Service found most people were satisfied with the care they received but wanted it sooner.

More than 80 per cent had seen their GP in the past year and nine out of ten considered

he or she had made the right diagnosis most of the time. However, inconvenient surgery hours put off many patients, including one in four women under 45.

Nearly 40 per cent of adults complained of difficulty getting through to the surgery on the phone and one in five encountered difficult receptionists once they had made contact.

When they did manage to see the GP, 40 per cent considered they were not always told enough about their condition. Women were twice as likely as men to want to be seen by a doctor of their own sex.

The Association of Community Health Councils said long waits for appointments was a source of growing discontent among patients. A demand for

maximum waiting times for routine appointments is to be debated at the association's annual conference in July. A spokeswoman said: "We are aware of the burden on accident and emergency departments. If primary care services are not coping, the pressure will be felt elsewhere in the system."

However, Claire Rayner, who chairs the Patients' Association,

said delays were an inevitable consequence of an appointments system. "In the old days the doctor would see as many as turned up and if there were a lot they would be rushed through. As soon as you bring in an appointments system you get an element of delay. It is not ideal and I hope doctors will take on board these findings and see what they can do."

The British Medical Association said the delays reflected the national shortage of 1,000 GPs. "We would like to devote more time to patients if we had the resources to do so," a spokeswoman said.

Tighter restrictions on prescribing the heroin substitute methadone and better training for GPs in treating drug addicts are among proposals being

considered by the Government.

The new guidelines for family doctors are part of the Government's anti-drug strategy and are intended to destroy the black market in methadone.

Under proposals from a medical working group, only GPs who have had extra training would be able to treat addicts and prescribe controlled drugs such as methadone.

## THE INDEPENDENT Champagne Breaks

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Situated 20km south of Epernay, on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region, Le Thibault offers a good standard of accommodation, with reasonably sized rooms and en suite bathrooms. The hotel's restaurant is well known across the Champagne area, serving both gastronomic meals and champagne dinners. The hotel can arrange a free visit to local wine cellars and, although this does not include wine-tasting, we're sure that it will be an insight into the Champagne world!

#### Troyes, Forêt d'Orient ★★★

Beautiful natural setting, in the heart of the Champagne region, between two lakes for water sports and on an 18-hole golf course, 15km from medieval Troyes and 100km from the Epernay champagne cellars. Relax around the heated pool, enjoy a round of golf or archery (both playable locally), or exercise in the free fitness room. The generous sized rooms offer satellite TV, telephone and lovely bathrooms with separate w.c. The restaurant has a poolside terrace offering good value menus. Family rooms available.

#### Reims, L'Assiette Champenoise ★★★★★

Located just 2km from the centre of Reims, with its magnificent Gothic cathedral and famous champagne cellars. Set in large grounds, this exquisite hotel offers excellent facilities and a high level of comfort in relaxing surroundings. In addition to the heated indoor swimming-pool, guests have free use of the sauna. A gastronomic experience at the popular restaurant is certainly not to be missed. All bedrooms have satellite TV and mini-bar. Buffet breakfast and private outdoor parking.

#### Epernay, Hostellerie de la Reine Blanche ★★★

The village of Vertus lies 20km south of Epernay on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region. The charm and warmth offered by the Hostellerie de la Reine Blanche is quite typical of the hotels in this region. The hotel has a swimming-pool, sauna and fitness room and the bedrooms are large and sumptuously decorated, with en suite bathrooms. The Hostellerie also boasts wine cellars holding vintages dating back to 1829 to accompany its restaurant's fine gastronomic cuisine.

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Troyes Forêt d'Orient	69 28	79 29	89 31	79 29
Epernay La Reine Blanche	79 37	89 38	99 40	89 38
Reims Assiette Champenoise	89 38	99 42	109 44	99 42

Destination and hotel name	10/04-30/04	01/05-27/05	28/05-31/08	01/09-31/10
	2 nts Ex nt	2 nts Ex nt	2 nts Ex nt	2 nts Ex nt
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Troyes Forêt d'Orient	79 28	89 29	99 31	89 29
Epernay La Reine Blanche	89 37	99 38	109 40	99 38
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THE INDEPENDENT

# Cost of bishops doubles in 10 years

THE CHURCH Commissioners have rejected suggestions that bishops are living the high life while parish clergy struggle to make ends meet, despite figures showing that bishops are spending twice as much as a decade ago.

The annual accounts, published yesterday, showed that the Church Commissioners of England spent £8.8m last year on bishops, compared with £4.3m in 1989. The figure covers the upkeep of the bishops' personal and office accommodation and the salaries of their 250 staff.

This was in contrast to £20m spent on parochial ministry support within the Church of England, which has declined from £58.6m in 1989.

The accounts were published as it emerged that one bishop had held a champagne breakfast to celebrate Easter and that others had been criticised for their expenses claims.

But a spokesman for the commissioners said: "The bulk of the costs are to help 113 bishops who are employing staff to help them go about their work and as time goes on they are increasingly busy and have more work to do."

He said the commissioners were legally obliged to pay for the bishops and for clergy pensions, the cost of which has risen steeply in the past 10 years, and that they did not have a legal responsibility to support the parochial ministries. "We have had to cut back on the money we give to the clergy because we are now having to spend £55m

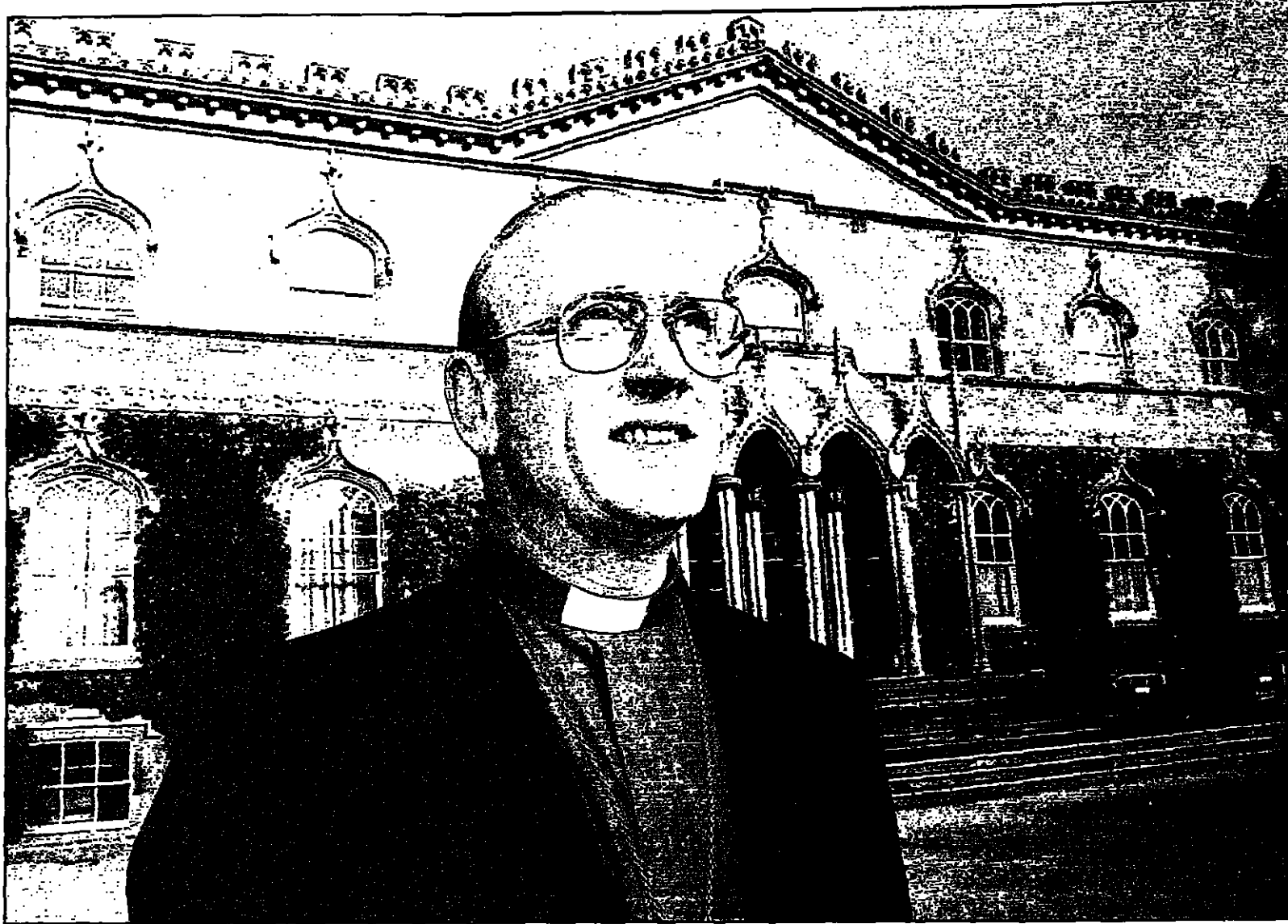
BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

a year on pensions as opposed to £49.5m 10 years ago."

Julian Hewitt, a spokesman for Salisbury diocese, said most bishops tried to keep down costs. He said the Right Rev David Standcliffe, the Bishop of Salisbury, had indeed held a champagne breakfast reception but it had been a ticket event and everyone who came had paid towards their drinks. "The Bishop works very hard and very long hours and it is pretty awful to imply that he is living the high life when, in fact, he leads a very simple life," he said.

A spokeswoman for Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said that although his wife often travelled with him her costs were paid for by the receiving church. "Everyone at Lambeth Palace is very conscious that our salaries are paid for by other people and we are very careful not to waste money," she said.

But the Rev Edward Underhill, of St George's Church in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, said that while most bishops led a simple lifestyle, they had become too managerial. "Bishops used to spend time in their diocese doing pastoral work but now they spend a lot of time and money travelling to London for meetings. There is no reason why some of the dioceses should not be amalgamated as long as there was a good administrative team and then they could get rid of some of the bishops."



The Archbishop of York at his official residence. Bishopthorpe Palace, described as 'ruinously expensive to keep up' North News and Pictures

## HOW THEY REALLY LIVE

**George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury**

Lives in a three-bedroom flat in Lambeth Palace. There are three staff flats as well as two floors of offices and several reception rooms.

**Jim Thompson, Bishop of Bath and Wells**

Lives in servants' quarters of a 13th-century moated palace in Wells. The gardener, the chaplain and the warden also live there and the bishop's staff are based there. Rooms are available to hire and the palace and gardens are open to the public.

**Richard Chartres, Bishop of London**

Lives with his family in the converted attic of the old Deanery, opposite St Paul's Cathedral. The basement is rented out to a firm of solicitors and the other floors are used as offices and meeting rooms for his staff.

**David Standcliffe, Bishop of Salisbury**

The former Bishop of the Palace has been converted into a school. The bishop lives in a house on the Cathedral Close. He holds meetings in the kitchen.

**David Bentley, Bishop of Gloucester**

Lives in a family-sized house which was built about 40 years ago. There are offices for his staff of a secretary and chaplain.

**Michael Turnbull, Bishop of Durham**

Lives in an apartment in one wing of Auckland Castle, where the Bishops of Durham have lived since medieval times. As well as offices for staff, some rooms are let out for functions.

## Life of genteel poverty inside swanky palaces

WHEN YOU see the fantastic palaces in which some bishops live it is easy to suppose the inhabitants are rich. The chance of becoming Archbishop of York and getting to live in Bishopthorpe Palace is surely one of the best arguments for Christian belief. Dr David Hope was almost certainly the bishop accused by a Sunday newspaper of spending more than £160,000 last year. It made him seem like an example of Anglican extravagance. But he isn't.

The palace at Bishopthorpe has a staff of 15, so their average salary is about £10,000. Bishops do have a better deal financially than priests in the Church of England - their salary is roughly double. But they live like doctors, not like lawyers and, when they retire, they come down with a bump.

At the top of the Church of England, you are in a world of privilege. I remember leaning on the battlements of Windsor Castle with an Old Etonian bishop,

looking across to his old school, while tourists hustled beneath us. Not even God would have felt our social superior then. But this grandeur came with the job, and departed with it, too. When my friend retired, he remarked how odd it was to have to buy a house for the first time. The profits that others make from home ownership were not for him.

This is not to say that bishops are cheap to run. Nearly £9m was spent on 113 bishops last year, which works out at about

£80,000 per bishop. But the figure is misleading, for it covers not just the bishops' salaries but also the salaries of their 250 staff. Since 50 of these employees are at Lambeth Palace and 15 more at Bishopthorpe, on average a bishop will have just one secretary and possibly one chaplain, neither of them very well paid.

The second reason that the figure is misleading is that it includes much of the £2m cost of last year's Lambeth Conference, when 800 bishops from

around the world spent three weeks in Canterbury. That was a lot of money to spend to give the bishop of Enugu in Nigeria a chance to exorcise, on live television, the general secretary of the lesbian and gay Christian movement. But it was probably an unrepeatable way for the church to waste money.

The outward splendours of the Church of England are impressive, but within the great stone buildings little touches of moderation are everywhere.

The first time I dined with an Archbishop at his palace we drank Wine Society claret rather than anything grander.

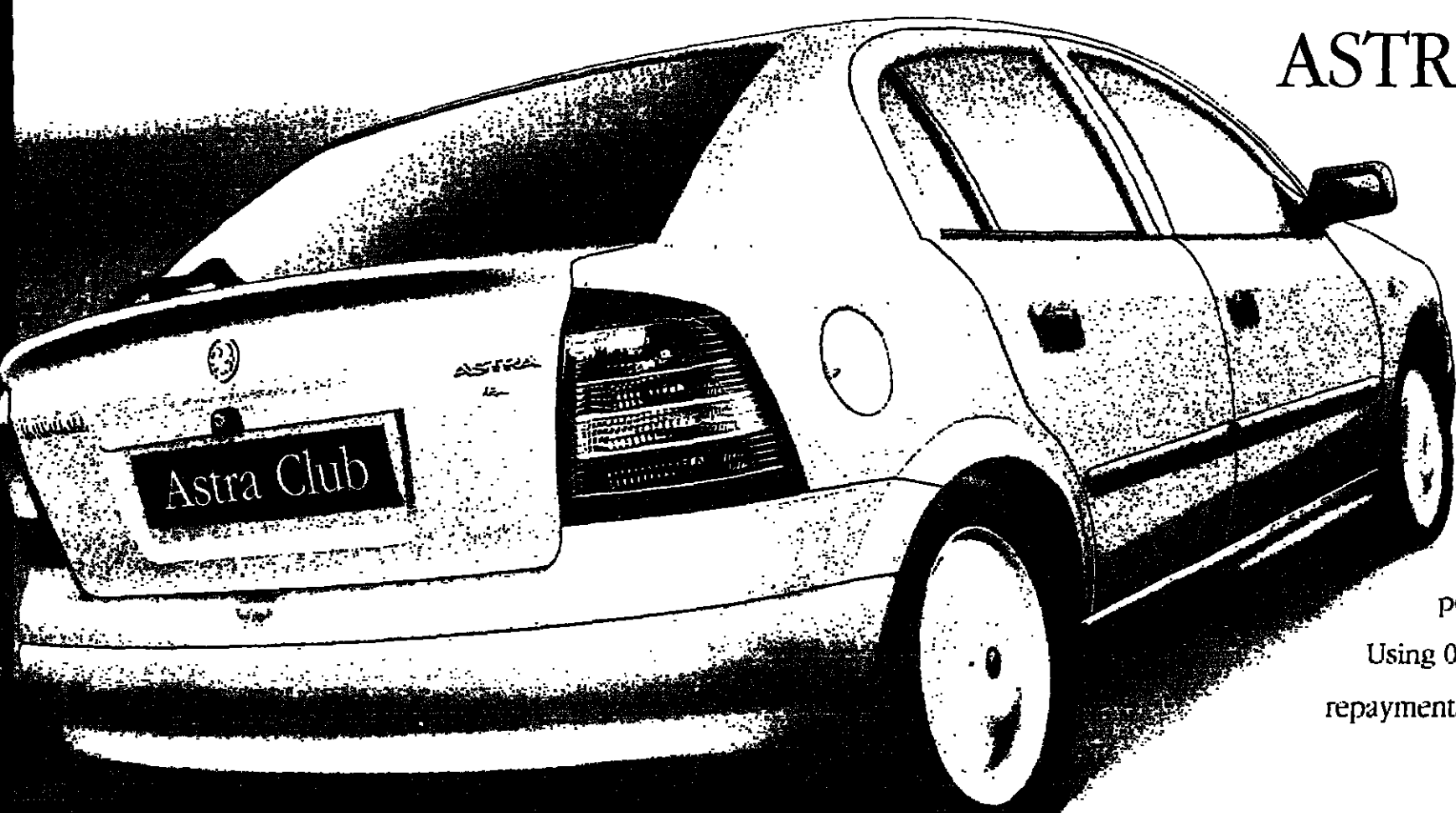
Most of the grandest buildings of the church are uninsurable and unsaleable. Auckland Castle, where the Bishop of Durham lives, was built when the inhabitants were powerful figures on a lawless frontier. Until 1832, the bishop had a private army to keep out the Scots. In those days, too, the Archbishop of Canterbury had an in-

come of £19,000 a year, equivalent to several million pounds today. Nowadays the family of the Bishop of Durham huddle in one wing of the castle. If the Church could sell the rest it would. But who would buy it?

The Sunday newspaper said that the Bishop of Salisbury had hosted an Easter champagne breakfast. It didn't mention it was a fund-raising event, for which £2.50 tickets were sold. I bet the champagne was rotten too.

ANDREW BROWN

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THE INDEPENDENT  
Tuesday 13 April 1999

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The American TV evangelist, the Scottish bank and an unholy alliance

IN THE 12-PAGE BUSINESS REVIEW

ABOUT BUSINESS PEOPLE. FOR BUSINESS PEOPLE. EVERY WEDNESDAY

# Blair is ready for mid-term struggle

TONY BLAIR invited the voters to pass judgement on his first two years in power as he fired the starting gun yesterday for the biggest mid-term electoral test for a government in the past 25 years.

The Prime Minister made clear that Labour would fight on "big picture" issues such as health, education, the economy and cash help for families. He played down local government and Europe, even though local elections take place in 362 authorities on 6 May, and the European Parliament poll follows on 10 June.

Insisting that Labour was delivering its election pledges after taking "tough decisions", Mr Blair ordered Labour candidates to highlight the £40bn cash boost for health and education, the minimum wage, the New Deal programme for the jobless, the 10p starting rate of income tax, and the biggest-ever rise in child benefit.

Mr Blair told a London press conference that Labour's achievements could be put at risk if nationalists made gains in the first elections to the new Scottish and Welsh assemblies, also on 6 May.

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

Admitting Labour had a fight ahead, Mr Blair said: "We have to defeat those people who want to split apart the United Kingdom, and wrench Scotland and Wales out of the UK. Devolution within the UK gives us the best of both worlds."

Although Labour is bound to suffer from the "mid-term blues" that afflict all governments, William Hague has more to lose from the May and June polls than Mr Blair. If the Tories do badly, Mr Hague could face moves to oust him this summer.

The Tories' private polls suggest that former Conservative voters who switched to Labour at the 1997 election are unpersuaded by Mr Hague. The polls are in line with the findings of Labour's focus groups. A recent summary sent to Mr Blair said former Tory supporters "described the Tories as weak, faceless and lacking charisma, all connected to a perceived lack of leadership and vision."

Another headache for Mr Hague is that Mr Blair may



Tony Blair and John Prescott launching Labour's campaigns for the local and European polls at a London press conference David Rose

benefit from a "Kosovo effect" in the elections. Although the Prime Minister said yesterday the two events were "entirely separate", Tory officials say that wars usually help the government of the day.

The Tories, who originally hoped to gain between 700 and 800 seats in the local government elections, say they have now revised their target downwards to "below 400".

But Labour claims it is bracing itself for losses of between 1,200 and 1,300 seats, a more realistic estimate than the 2,000 figure originally produced by the party's headquarters.

Independent experts say the Tories need to make 1,000 gains just to perform as well as they did in their 1997 general election rout. Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher of the University of Plymouth predict that the Tories should gain 1,300 seats in England alone,

with Labour losing about 1,100 and the Liberal Democrats losing about 200.

They say Labour could lose control of Sheffield, the Liberal Democrats' top target, Calderdale, Kirklees, and Trafford. Labour is also worried by the Liberal Democrat advance in Bristol.

Mr Rallings and Mr Thrasher say Labour could also be deprived of its overall majority in Milton Keynes, North East Lincolnshire, and York. Principal Conservative targets include Bromsgrove, Gedling and South Ribblesdale. A key battleground will be Hertfordshire, where Labour could lose control in five of the six district councils it holds.

Labour officials are worried about voter apathy. Turnouts as low as 10 per cent are expected in some inner city areas, and Mr Blair is expected to seize on such a low level of interest as

evidence that wide-ranging town hall reforms are needed - such as the creation of directly elected mayors.

Today the Tories will launch their campaign for the local elections by promising to stand up for "the small man" against "big government." The move is part of Mr Hague's new brand of "kitchen table Conservatism" in which his party will concentrate on the "bread and butter issues".

# Initiation rites for Britons planned

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

US-STYLE "welcoming" ceremonies could be used for all new British citizens under plans being drawn up by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary.

He told the Foundation for Citizenship pressure group yesterday that new citizens should be allowed to celebrate publicly "this key rite of passage".

In the US, he said, new citizens were treated to "tear-jerking" ceremonies, singing the national anthem and swearing allegiance to the flag.

But the Home Office had no means of holding similar events, diminishing the concept of citizenship, he added. "Citizenship is not just about legal rights and legal enforcement. It should also have a positive, proactive side. Citizenship is something worth celebrating."

"We have not been good at doing this. Canada and Australia honour new citizens with public ceremonies and citations. In Britain we send a certificate through the post. And we make people wait two years for it, such is the delay in processing applications."

Although most British people preferred to regard themselves as Londoners or Liverpudlians, rather than as "citizens", international agreements such as the Treaties of the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights were forcing a rethink of rights and responsibilities for all.

# New Assemblies: Scotland and Wales manifestos unveiled

## Anti-bombing Salmond hits an all-time low with voters

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Scotland Correspondent

LEADERSHIP was a key issue in the Scottish Parliament elections yesterday as Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP, struggled to put a brave face on an ICM poll showing his personal standing with the electorate has hit an all-time low.

Mr Salmond has learnt the hard way that the public does not like party leaders criticising a war effort when our forces are involved. A quarter of Scots polled said Mr Salmond's condemnation of the Nato bombing of Yugoslavia made them less likely to vote SNP.

In a choice of best First Minister of the home rule government, 55 per cent of respondents picked Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, and only 25 per cent opted for Mr Salmond. Last year the two were level.

Mr Salmond brushed aside suggestions that his Kosovo broadcast had rebounded and



Donald Dewar scored top marks in opinion poll PA

dismissed claims of a rift with his closest adviser, Mike Russell, party chief executive. "There have been some daft stories but that was the daftest I have seen so far," he said.

Mr Dewar has unveiled Labour's manifesto for the 6 May election. Last week Tony Blair and Gordon Brown hogged the stage in Scotland. "Scotland leading Britain" is the party's Unionist message. The manifesto was largely a re-hash of promises already made, focusing on education, and could have been implemented without a devolved parliament.

Mr Dewar's initial act as First Minister would be an "education for a nation" Act, introducing community schools, more computers, a nursery place for all children aged three

and four, with "proper rewards" for the best teachers.

He announced a new statutory duty on ministers and local authorities to meet targets for school performances, warning: "If the Education Minister doesn't make the grade, he or she won't be the Education Minister."

Labour was believed to have brought its manifesto launch forward by 24 hours so it would not overshadow by grim news for Glasgow today.

The Norwegian conglomerate Kvaerner is expected to close its Govan shipyard and Clydebank engineering company with the probable loss of up to 2,000 jobs, Mr Dewar said "far more" jobs had been created than lost since Labour came to power and the claimant count in Scotland was at its lowest since 1977.

The poll, for *The Scotsman*, showed Labour winning 60 seats in the 129-member parliament, the SNP 42, Liberal Democrats 16 and Tories 11.

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# Plaid Cymru denies it wants independent Wales

BY MICHAEL BRISTOW

PLAID CYMRU launched its manifesto for the Welsh Assembly elections yesterday by saying it is not calling for an independent Wales.

However, the party president, Dafydd Wigley, said he hoped the Assembly would be given more powers in future.

The Welsh Labour Party responded by saying Plaid Cymru wanted to separate Wales from Britain, which would put the principle of non-secession into the red.

Mr Wigley said in Cardiff: "Plaid Cymru has never advocated independence. Our objective has been full self-government for Wales. As we build our confidence in our country, I believe people will want to take more powers."

Mr Wigley said giving the Welsh Assembly law-making and tax-raising powers was an objective of his party. The Plaid Cymru manifesto, called Working for the New Wales, contains 80 policy proposals for the next four years.

The party said it would give more support to Welsh businesses, abolish the internal health market and put more resources into education for the very young.

Other proposals include improving the rail link between North and South Wales, expanding an agri-environmental scheme to boost farming and giving Wales a stronger voice in

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INDEPENDENT  
Tuesday 13 April 1999

Blanc  
victims  
found

BY JOHN LICHFIELD  
in Paris

is said to be severely critical of the management and safety provisions of the tunnel as a whole.

It criticises the "insufficient and obsolete" system for the traction of fumes, which allowed the original fire in a point where it could not be controlled. It also attacks the scaled "safe havens" excavated at intervals along the tunnel walls four years ago, which were capable of sustaining life for only two hours.

The report is also said to criticise the lack of co-operation between the tunnel management and local fire service. More specifically, it says the smoke-detection system on the Italian side of the tunnel failed to work. As a result, vehicles were allowed to enter the tunnel at the Italian end for a couple of minutes after the alarm had already been raised on the French side.

The cause, and the ferocity of the initial fire in the Belgian truck carrying flour and marine remains a mystery. The lorry was a new Volvo and police are investigating whether there have been similar complaints fires in other trucks in the series.

A French police investigation has travelled to Volvo head quarters in Gothenburg to get more information.

# End of Libya's purdah to test Gaddafi's grip

WEARING open-necked shirts, his head thrown back in laughter, Muammar Gaddafi towers above the people of Libya, on hand-painted billboards across Tripoli. The message to the capital's consumers seems to be that, in the sanctions war, the Leader has the last laugh.

Yet, a week after United Nations sanctions against Libya were suspended in return for the handover of two men suspected of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing, Colonel Gaddafi is facing the toughest challenge of his 30 years in power.

When air and arms sanctions against the north African country in force since 1992, are finally fully lifted - probably within three months - Libya will reveal itself to the world as a modern Muslim country.

Alcohol is banned but women drive cars and walk arm-in-arm with their boyfriends. Mobile phones are heard ringing as often as muezzin calls to prayer. In cities, everyone has electricity and water. Health care and schools are free.

This thrifflly managed oil-

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH  
in Tripoli

producing country did not suffer materially from the imposition of UN sanctions after the 1988 Lockerbie disaster in which 270 people died - land links were never cut. But the five million people of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya were psychologically cut off from the world, leaving their leader to rule by personality cult, intimidation, executions and fear.

Whatever did go wrong could be blamed on the Americans. Yesterday, at Tripoli Hospital a young casualty ward doctor bemoaned the lack of equipment and medicines. In a spacious white room with four patients on trolleys, he said: "The hospital, which is one of the biggest in Africa, is only four years old. It is very modern and we have staff from all over the world. But we are short of equipment and drugs, because of the embargo."

Most Libyans who meet foreigners are friendly but shy, and nervous of speaking. "The

Leader is good as long as you are a well-behaved person," a woman in the market said. "We accept the situation because prices are cheap and education is free," a teacher said, "but there is a lot of treachery; you cannot trust your neighbour."

Seven years ago, when sanctions were imposed on the former Italian colony, the world was emerging from the Cold War. For years, Colonel Gaddafi had played the United States and the Soviet Union off against each other. Now aged 57 and seen by the Western world as the leader of a terrorist state, he can no longer do that; neither can he blame sanctions for everything.

Since 1973 when he first published his Green Book - explaining how to attain pure, Muslim socialism - Colonel Gaddafi has changed some of his views. Libya is a consumer society and he looks to Africa, not pan-Arabism, for solidarity.

But despite ruling by "people's congresses", he represses dissent, calls for thieves' hands to be cut off and executes treasonous military.



Baseball caps for sale yesterday in Ha Nam, Vietnam. Textile exports have been hit hard by the regional economic crisis. Richard Vogel/AP

## Don't speak English in Moscow - unless it's Pushkin

MY LOCAL municipal leisure centre has gone ahead with a stage production of a Russian classic performed in English, which is remarkable, given that Russian outrage at the bombing of Yugoslavia has reached such a pitch that foreigners are being advised for their own safety not to speak English on the streets of Moscow.

Jim Patterson, a Scot living in Moscow, and Artyom Kretov, a Russian, play opposite each

other in *Mozart and Salieri*, a tragedy by Alexander Pushkin, whose 200th birthday the Russians are celebrating this year. The team hopes to take the production to the fringe of the Edinburgh Festival.

The play's director is Dmitry Semak. Like many Russians in the once-subsidised arts, Dmitry a graduate of Moscow's prestigious State Institute of Theatre Arts, is now unable to earn a living in his chosen field.

He has a day job in an advertising agency while drama has become a passionate hobby.

Dmitry has been dreaming of Edinburgh ever since he went to the festival as a visitor. He thought it would be wonderful to take Pushkin there in the poet's anniversary year.

But Pushkin is to the Russians what Shakespeare is to English speakers and it is not easy to translate a genius. It was only when Dmitry met William Rowsey, a British drama student in Moscow, and read his translation of *Mozart and Salieri*, one of Pushkin's "Little Tragedies", that he saw the play might travel.

The production had its pre-

### STREET LIFE SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

miere last week at the "Club on Yermolova Street", run by Yelena Usachova, a former atomic physicist who now offers culture to the young because she believes in the "saving power of beauty."

"With this awful war going on, it is very important not to break the threads of our cultural co-operation," she said. She was worried that nobody would turn up, but the hall filled to half capacity with Russian teachers of English and their students.

The programme explained

superior genius. "In England, you have done productions of Shakespeare on bare stages in 20th-century dress but this is something new for us," said Dmitry. "We have made a holy icon of Pushkin and are afraid to experiment with his work."

The story of *Mozart and Salieri* is well known. While writing his Requiem, Mozart is haunted by a figure in black. It is Death himself. But has Salieri really poisoned his friend? "Genius and evil are two things incompatible," says Mozart trustingly. Are they?

I had some difficulty in recognising the English of Artyom, who played Salieri. By contrast, the Russians in the audience

understood him but were thrown by the native intonations of Jim in the role of Mozart.

Jim, who came from Edinburgh to study at film school here, said he had played parts in Russian - a collective farmer, a male prostitute - so he knew what an achievement it was for Artyom to act in a foreign language.

After the show, some of the teachers from the audience gathered with the actors for tea and a talk about how the play could be improved. Everyone liked Artyom's Russian accent, as it highlighted the fact that Salieri was twisted and an outsider, but it was suggested that he speak more slowly for clarity.

Someone said Mozart's death should be made more dramatic. "Can't you flood the stage with blood red light?" "We can't afford red light," said the director. "We could overturn the grand piano." "Don't you dare," laughed the club manager.

One of the teachers spoke interestingly about the themes of *Mozart and Salieri*. "It's about ruined friendship," he said.

Ruined friendship, Russia and the West are entering a new cold war over Yugoslavia and yet in the apolitical world of the arts, friendship goes on. Now all Dmitry, Artyom and Jim need is a sponsor to pay their air fares to Edinburgh.

HELEN WOMACK

### GE CAPITAL BANK LIMITED NOTICE TO CARDHOLDERS

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GOLDSMITHS  
LAURA ASHLEY

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### IN BRIEF

**Tiny island joins Commonwealth**  
THE COMMONWEALTH is about to welcome its tiniest member, after the South Pacific island of Nauru, which covers eight square miles, said yesterday it intended to become the 53rd member on 1 May. With 10,000 inhabitants, Nauru lies 1,900 miles north-east of Australia.

**Poles act to protect Auschwitz**  
THE POLISH parliament voted to set up "protected zones" around former Nazi concentration camps, to resolve disputes over the field of crosses erected by Catholic activists at Auschwitz. Public gatherings will be banned without a permit at the sites of eight former Nazi camps.

**Two die in South Africa attacks**  
JOHN RUBYTHON, 58, a British-born journalist, and Dr Paul Bosmana have been stabbed to death in South Africa. Mr Rubython was attacked at home in Cape Town. Dr Bosmana, former chief of government vet services, died in his Shelly Beach home on the Indian Ocean. The killers took a cell phone.

**Yeltsin wins a Duma reprieve**  
PARTY LEADERS in Russia's lower house of parliament have put off indefinitely a vote to start impeachment of President Boris Yeltsin. A date may be set after the Duma adopts new voting procedures and rule changes.

### MILES KINGTON

**Film is not a black industry and Hollywood is not a black-oriented place**

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 2

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**Rights are Coming Home**

The impact of the incorporation of The European Convention on Human Rights into UK Law

Thursday 22nd April 1999 • Barbican Centre, London EC2

A national conference to examine the impact of the introduction into UK Law of the European Convention on Human Rights with particular emphasis on the impact on public bodies, covering their role as employers, their relations with customers and their duties to the public. The conference will highlight the systems they will need to establish to meet the standards of the European Convention and set out the range of organisations affected. The conference will also consider the implications of the new role in upholding rights available to trade unions and NGO's. A conference for Councillors, public appointees, chief executives, NGO's, trade unions, legal advisors and personnel directors and customer relations directors.

**Rt Hon Jack Straw MP**  
Secretary of State, Home Office

**Anne Owers**  
Director, Justice

**John Wadham**  
Director, Liberty

**Professor Geoff Gilbert**  
Director of Human Rights Centre, University of Essex

**Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede**  
Chairman, Council of Europe 50th Anniversary, UK National Committee

**Rt Hon Lord Wakeham**  
Chair, Press Complaints Commission

**Professor Robert Hazell**  
Director, Constitution Unit, University College London

**Mike Walker**  
Policy Development Adviser, Water UK

**Judith Mayhew**  
Chairman, Policy & Resources Committee, Corporation of London (Solicitor and Director of Education and Training, Wide Sate)

**Kamaljeet Jandu**  
Policy Officer, Equal Rights Department, TUC

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# BUSINESS

## Dixons shares soar on plan to cash in on Internet boom

### BRIEFING

#### Marconi's £100m Romania order

MARCONI, the communications arm of GEC, has won a £100m order from Romania to equip its military with a new integrated communications systems. The system will cover army, navy and airforce. Marconi has also announced a £36m deal to supply Bulgaria with military communications equipment compatible with that used by Nato forces. The bid was successful despite stiff competition from suppliers worldwide.

#### Slough set to offload properties

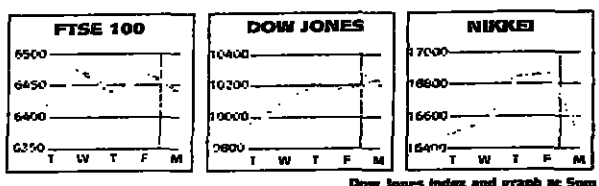


SLOUGH ESTATES, the property company headed by Sir Nigel Mobbs, is selling a raft of properties for £45m. The sale is part of an ongoing programme to offload up to £100m of assets the group inherited as a result of last year's takeover of Bilton, the rival property group. The properties which have been sold include nine town centre offices spread around south-east England. Derek Wilson, Slough's chief executive (pictured), said the sales were in line with the group's stated strategy and will allow resources to be concentrated on the core industrial portfolio.

#### Affinity Internet valued at £12.75m

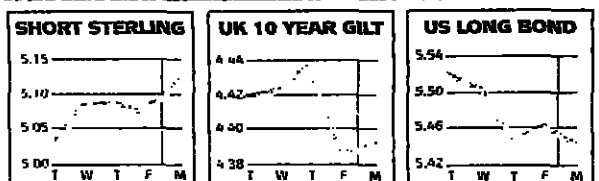
AFFINITY INTERNET has become the latest Internet-related company to come to the market, through an institutional placing on the alternative investment market (AIM) valuing the company at £12.75m. Under the Virtual Internet Provider (VIP) banner, the company sells Internet access through branded outlets to retail customers. Its clients include Arsenal football club, Toys 'R Us, Tiny Computers and Martin Dawes Communications. The placing by brokers Charles Stanley at 70p a share raised £2.75.

### STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6441.20	-31.60	-0.49	6512.10	4999.20	2.43	
FTSE 250	5558.90	-4.60	-0.08	5570.90	4247.60	3.19	
FTSE 350	3056.80	-13.10	-0.43	3084.40	2210.40	2.35	
FTSE All Share	2956.36	-12.43	-0.42	2982.22	2143.25	2.60	
FTSE SmallCap	2417.90	-5.40	-0.22	2429.80	1834.40	3.57	
FTSE Fledgling	1317.50	-2.90	-0.21	1317.10	1046.20	3.94	
FTSE AIM	881.40	8.10	0.93	1146.90	761.30	1.16	
FTSE Eurotop 100	2996.34	-7.42	-0.25	3079.27	2018.15	1.93	
FTSE Eurotop 300	1289.63	-4.91	-0.38	1332.07	880.63	1.87	
Dow Jones	9558.90	-4.60	-0.08	9570.90	7400.30	1.55	
Nikkei	3056.80	-13.10	-0.43	3084.40	2210.40	0.78	
Hang Seng	11744.74	-189.36	-1.62	12199.83	8544.79	3.01	
Dax	5129.16	-34.98	-0.68	5217.83	3833.71	1.59	
S&P 500	1347.50	-3.53	-0.26	1351.18	923.32	1.19	
Nasdaq	2582.17	-7.37	-0.28	2599.20	1957.09	0.28	
Toronto 300	6902.00	10.73	0.16	7837.70	5320.90	1.52	
Brazil Bovespa	11079.23	-265.77	-2.35	12339.14	4575.69	3.22	
Belgium Bel20	3323.59	-7.00	-0.21	3713.21	2696.26	1.98	
Amsterdam Eax	336.17	-1.56	-0.46	600.65	366.58	1.87	
France CAC 40	4359.00	-9.14	-0.21	4416.00	2881.21	1.66	
Italy MIB 30	36702.00	-53.00	-0.14	39170.00	24175.00	1.05	
Madrid Ibsc 35	10038.20	-82.70	-0.82	10989.80	8689.90	1.74	
Irish Allshare	5352.08	-4.83	-0.09	5581.70	3732.57	1.55	
S. Korea Comp	689.64	2.22	0.32	692.02	277.37	1.00	
Australia ASX	3038.20	-21.80	-0.71	3073.50	2386.70	3.05	

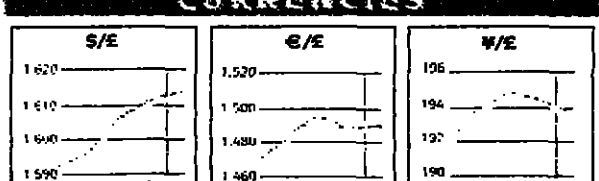
### INTEREST RATES



### MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	10 year	15 year	Long bond	Yr. chg.
UK	5.31	-2.24	5.30	-2.24	4.39	-1.36	4.42
US	5.00	-0.66	5.19	-0.59	5.03	0.62	5.44
Japan	0.16	-0.52	0.23	-0.47	1.57	-0.32	2.31
Germany	2.66	-0.96	2.72	-1.20	3.80	-1.05	4.76

### CURRENCIES



### POUND

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6137	+0.50c	1.6669
Euro	1.4887	-0.26c	1.4079
Yen	193.80	-0.54	216.08
S. India	102.70	+0.10	107.30

### OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	14.31	-0.08	13.05
Gold (\$)	283.65	-2.20	307.75
Silver (\$)	4.98	0.07	6.41

### TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4536	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.92
Austria (schillings)	19.86	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1826
Belgium (francs)	58.34	New Zealand (\$)	2.8661
Canada (\$)	2.3548	Norway (kroner)	12.18
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8334	Portugal (escudos)	287.97
Denmark (kroner)	10.81	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8775
Finland (markka)	8.6181	Singapore (\$)	2.6509
France (francs)	9.4746	South Africa (rand)	9.5851
Germany (marks)	2.8354	Spain (pesetas)	239.84
Greece (drachma)	468.54	Sweden (kronor)	13.02
Hong Kong (\$)	12.12	Switzerland (francs)	2.3252
Ireland (punts)	1.1366	Thailand (bahts)	55.74
India (rupees)	61.92	Turkey (liras)	585580
Israel (shekels)	6.0045	USA (\$)	1.5759
Italy (lira)	2810		
Japan (yen)	190.52		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8478		
Malta (lira)	0.6180		

DIXONS, the electronics retailer, is preparing to cash in on the soaring value of Internet stocks by floating off a part of Freeserve, its popular free Internet service which is valued at up to £4bn by analysts.

Shares in Dixons jumped more than 8 per cent yesterday, adding more than £500m to the value of the group, on news that it had appointed Credit Suisse First Boston and Cazenove, the merchant banks, to "explore the strategic alternatives available to Freeserve". The options include a potential flotation of a minority stake in the service.

John Clare, Dixons' chief

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

executive, said an independent stock market listing might make it easier for Freeserve to make acquisitions and form alliances with other Internet companies.

"For Freeserve to grow and prosper it might be advisable for it to have its own individual paper," he said, adding that Freeserve shares might also appeal to a different investor than Dixons shareholders.

"The core of Dixons is a rather different business which has different criteria for things like return on capital," he said.

Freeserve has transformed the Internet industry in the UK since it was launched last September. Already 1.1m regular customers have signed up, making it our largest Internet service provider.

The service, which pays for itself through a slice of the local phone call charges racked up by users, has prompted a host of other companies to follow suit. Organisations including British Telecom, Tesco and The Sun have launched their own free Internet services.

The amount of Internet traffic that passes through Freeserve's website has

prompted analysts to start viewing the business as a portal - a site used by surfers as a gateway to the rest of the Internet. In the United States, portals such as Yahoo! and Excite have attracted huge valuations in recognition of their ability to sell advertising and conduct electronic commerce.

By comparing Freeserve to US Internet stocks, analysts put a value of up to £4bn on Freeserve - more than Dixons' traditional business, which includes the PC World and Currys chains. But Freeserve has yet to show it is able to generate revenues from the traffic to

the site. Most of the local call revenues are pocketed by Easynet, which provides the physical backbone for the service.

What's more, much of Freeserve's implied value is already reflected in Dixons' shares, which have more than doubled since the service was launched. Yesterday, they closed up 114p at 1564p.

The path to a flotation was laid earlier this year by an internal restructuring at Dixons which separated Freeserve from the rest of the business and gave it its own operating board.

Analysts generally wel-

comed the move but warned that Dixons should not attempt to raise cash from a flotation. "The fact is it's not theirs to sell. It belongs to the shareholders," one expert said. "And anyway Dixons is already laden with cash."

Other options for Freeserve could include issuing a tracking stock - a virtual share which tracks the performance of the business - or selling the service outright to a US group.

But experts pointed out that any buyer would be likely to want to pay for the business in shares, making a deal less attractive.

## Ford to buy Kwik-Fit for £1bn

BY ANDREW VERITY

FORD, the giant motor company, yesterday launched an agreed takeover of Kwik-Fit in a surprise deal that values the Edinburgh-based tyre and exhaust company at £1bn.

Ford said the takeover was part of a drive to move from its image as a motor manufacturer and turn itself into the leading consumer services company in motoring.

Kwik-Fit shareholders will be offered 560p in cash for each share, a 32 per cent premium to their Friday closing price of 419p. Shares in Kwik-Fit soared, climbing 28 per cent to close at 541p. Other motor service retailers rose in sympathy, including Lex, up 38p at 469p.

The deal gives the car giant greater access to after-sales markets in Europe, with control of 1,900 garages in the UK, Belgium, France and Germany. Ford executives said they would service competitor's cars for the first time, and offer enhanced service on its own cars over two years old.

Jacques Nasser, president of Ford, said: "Kwik-Fit is an outstanding company that has earned a leading position in the fast-fit market and created a successful customer formula - innovative high value services with convenient locations and knowledge of the customer."

While executives talked of "outstanding growth potential" and significant synergies, they said no job cuts were planned. Ford is retaining the services of Sir Tom Farmer, Kwik-Fit's

founder, chairman and chief executive, who will remain in charge of the company he set up 28 years ago. He will also join the board of the Ford Consumer Services Division (FSCSD). Directors of Kwik-Fit are unanimously recommending the offer.

A Ford spokesman said the first talks began "several months ago" after Ford approached Kwik-Fit. "What we were looking for was the best aftermarket company in the world," he said. "This is not just about Europe but about the world. We concluded that Kwik-Fit was the best."

Analysts yesterday said they were surprised that Kwik-Fit had decided to talk to Ford, in spite of a mild profits warning late last year. "It is a company that has always made great play of its independence and was doing quite well enough on its own," said one. "It was probably panicked into talking by the profits warning."

Joe Dickinson, an analyst with leading motor market consultants A.D. Kearney, said the deal underlined Ford's strategy of vertical integration, buying car dealers in the US and increasingly using its brand to move into retail services.

Ford said it intended to accelerate the Kwik-Fit European expansion, which involved buying the Speedy chain of motor services outlets last year.



Sir Tom Farmer is selling his Edinburgh-based firm to car giant Ford for a tidy £1bn. Lorne Campbell

## Sir Tom set to pocket £77m

SIR TOM FARMER, the chairman and chief executive of Kwik-Fit, is set to pocket over £77m if shareholders approve the £1bn takeover offer from Ford, writes Andrew Verity.

Sir Tom, known in Edinburgh as a local philanthropist, admitted he felt emotional about the prospect of selling the company he founded 34 years ago. He has accepted Ford's offer, pledging his own 8 per cent stake.

He said he felt like the "father of the bride" before giving his daughter away. "This is like a wedding and Kwik-Fit is being

married to a fantastic husband in the organisation of the Ford Motor Company, which is known and respected throughout the world," he said.

The sale to Ford is, said Sir Tom, "the closing chapter in a book" that began with the opening in 1964 of Tyres and Accessory Supplies, a store in Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh, when he was 23 years old.

Six years later he almost sold the business for £400,000. He wanted to retire to San Francisco, but returned to business when his wife Anne said his pres-

ence at home was "driving me nuts".

Kwik-Fit began in 1971, opening its first centre in Edinburgh with the ambition of providing a service to motorists "from slow room to scrapyard". It now employs 7,000 people and operates through 1,295 service points in the UK, Eire, Holland and Belgium. Last year the group bought a further 568 centres in France, Germany and Spain.

"I saw this [Ford offer] as an ideal opportunity to give Kwik-Fit more global opportunities. Kwik-Fit's headquarters will re-

main in Edinburgh and from this hub we will spearhead its continued worldwide expansion."

An ardent Catholic, Sir Tom arranges annual trips to Lourdes, the religious shrine in France. He has been criticised by some for a lack of attention to detail and is described as "not a nuts-and-bolts man".

He gained a reputation for philanthropy when he led a financial rescue of Hibernian, the Edinburgh football club, three years ago. He is now engaged in fund-raising initiatives for the refugees of Kosovo.

## Average Goldman share handout will be \$126,000

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

THE TOP five partners at Goldman Sachs are set to receive shares worth nearly \$900m (£560m) when the firm goes public in June.

All Goldman's 13,000 staff, including 2,500 in London, will get shares worth half annual salary plus bonus, making an average windfall of \$126,000, with more senior staff topped up on a discretionary basis. The big beneficiaries will be the top brass, whose existing capital built up over years at the firm will be converted into shares.

John Thornton, co-chief op-

erating officer stands to get 3.01 million shares, worth up to \$170m on flotation. John Thain, the former chief financial officer who is now co-chief operating officer, gets 3 million or \$165m worth of shares.

The biggest slice goes to the chairman and chief executive, Hank Paulson, who will receive 4.13 million shares worth \$227m. Next in line is Robert Hurst, co-head of investment banking, with 3.84 million shares worth

\$211m. David Viniar, who took over this year from Mr Thain as chief financial officer, gets 1.72 million shares worth \$94m.

Sir John Browne, chief executive of BP-Amoco, and James Johnson, former chairman and chief executive of Fannie Mae, the American Federal mortgage corporation, are to join the board as non-executive directors.

The other 221 partners and 541 managing directors - the layer below partnership - will hold shares worth up to \$15.5m. The figures are contained in the sale prospectus filed yesterday.

## Three home lenders shave fraction from loan rates

BY NIC CICUTTI  
Personal Finance Editor

HALIFAX, Abbey National, and Cheltenham & Gloucester, three of the UK's largest mortgage lenders, yesterday announced they will shave their home loan rates for borrowers by 0.1 percentage points.

Their decision means a Halifax borrower with a £60,000 mortgage will save £4.75 on a typical £60,000 loan, which now drops to 6.85 per cent. C&G's rate falls to the same level.

All Abbey National borrowers will see a similar monthly fall, although their tiered interest-rate system means that only loans of

£100,000 or more will be charged at 6.85 per cent. Lower-sized loans will pay between 0.05 and 0.1 per cent more. The Halifax and Abbey mortgage cuts will apply from 1 May for existing borrowers; C&G said it had not yet decided on a date.

Yesterday's move follows the decision by the Bank of England last week to cut bank base rates by 0.25 percentage points. At the time, with the exception of Virgin Direct which matched the

MPC cut, all lenders said they were "reviewing" their charges.

Ambrose McGinn, Abbey National retail products director, said: "We have reduced the mortgage rate by less than the base rate, with savers very much in mind. Rapidly falling rates are good for borrowers but they have a great impact on our savers, who outnumber borrowers seven to one."

Mr McGinn added that borrowers were now paying £95 a month less on a typical £60,000 mortgage than they were six months ago.

## AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

### LONDON

FEARS THAT New York would tumble after Friday's Compaq profit warning proved groundless, and after losing 95.6 points Footsie rallied to cut its loss to 31.6 points at 6,441.2. Supporting shares also retreated.

Dixons led the leader board, jumping 114p to 1,564p as it signalled a possible float of its Freeserve Internet service provider. Chemical group Laporte rose by 17p to 782.5p after admitting a takeover approach.

Derek Pain, page 19

### NEW YORK

BLUE CHIP stocks rebounded from a broad sell-off after Compaq's profits warning on Friday, with the Dow up 28 points at 10,282 at midday, back from an early 77-point loss. The Nasdaq index was off 12 points, with a ratings downgrade on Intel, the world's largest chip maker, adding to technology sector's gloom.

A strong rise in American Express and Caterpillar, the heavy equipment maker, helped pull up the Dow.

### TOKYO

FRIDAY'S PROFIT warning from computer group Compaq hit Japanese shares, which tumbled more than 2 per cent yesterday. The Nikkei 225 closed 348.23 points lower at 16,507.40. June Nikkei futures fell 290 points to 16,560.

Technology stocks led the way down amid fears that Compaq's difficulties could indicate an industry-wide trend. Sony weakened 3 per cent and Softbank Corp 8.4 per cent. Masatoshi Sato at Kanak Securities said a hi-tech "reality check" was needed.

### HONG KONG

SHARES ENDED down almost 1.5 per cent following a bout of profit taking. The Hang Seng index finished 169.36 points lower at 11,744.74, with major blue-chips leading the fallers. Shares in HSBC slid 1.48 per cent to HK\$266 and Hong Kong Telecom 2.79 per cent to HK\$15.70.

Tom Hester at ING Barings in Hong Kong said: "Technically, the market has come a long way in quite a short time, and for its own good it could do with a pull-back."

### FRANKFURT

THE ELECTRONICALLY traded Xetra DAX ended up 0.66 per cent at 5,167.5, still buoyed by last week's interest-rate cut.

Gains in Deutsche Telekom ahead of its results on Thursday helped counter a sharp fall in Deutsche Bank shares. Telecoms group Mannesmann rose 2.8 per cent on the back of Olivetti's bid for Telecom Italia; the Italian electronics company plans to sell its stakes in two Italian phone companies, leaving Mannesmann with majority stakes.



# What to do with Sir Stanley's Net gem

SIR STANLEY KALMS and his chief executive at Dixons, John Clare, claim always to have anticipated that their pioneering new service in Internet access provision, Freeserve, would take the UK market by storm. However, neither of them could have foreseen the effect on their share price, which has more than doubled since the service was launched last September.

Perhaps inevitably, they are now seeking to capitalise on their success by exploring the possibility of floating off a minority in an initial public offering. According to Dixons, the thinking behind this is not to do with value recognition - the value is already apparent in the soaring share price. Rather, it is about giving Freeserve the currency with which to make acquisitions in the highly valued Internet sector. And it is about the fact that investors expect and look for different things out of a retailer and an Internet service provider.

Dixons is expected to produce quite substantial short-term returns on capital in a way that is impossible for a fledgling Internet company. By the same token, if Freeserve is to fulfil its potential, it needs to be able to use cash and



## OUTLOOK

paper in a way that would be seen as wholly inappropriate for Dixons the retailer.

If all this is true, however, the logical approach would surely be to demerge Freeserve in its entirety, leaving investors in Dixons a share in each. What's the point in Dixons continuing to have control of its unexpected success if the two are completely different businesses? One reason, Dixons says, is that Freeserve has given the group's traditional business as an electricals retailer a quite considerable boost, through Internet sales and advertising, though it is unclear about how much.

But surely the real reason is an

entirely uncommercial one, understandable though it might be: managements cannot bear to give up the things they have created, even when it might make sense to do so. When, moreover, the value bestowed by Freeserve, guarantees indefinite FTSE 100 membership - the choice is more difficult still.

So how much is Freeserve worth? Analysts vary widely but few would put it at less than £1bn. AOL, the highflying US Internet service provider, is valued at approximately £5.500 per customer. Even allowing for the less sophisticated nature of the Freeserve service, the fact that none of its subscribers pay, and the exclusively UK nature of the subscriber base, some analysts reckon it may be reasonable to put a value of £1,500 on each Freeserve customer.

With a million customers, possibly rising to three million after three years, that would give a potential valuation of more than £4bn. Sounds crazy, doesn't it, but valuations like this are common place in the US. Whether UK investors are prepared to bite on such a choker is altogether less certain. The demerger route, allowing the stock to

find its own level, would clearly be the better one, but it would surely be expecting too much to ask Sir Stanley to give up such a gem.

## Railtrack

JOHN PRESCOTT, the deputy prime minister, would much prefer it if the railways were back in state ownership, but given that this is unlikely to happen for the foreseeable future, he's opting for the next best thing. If the Government were to transfer the subsidies it pays to train operating companies (TOCs) for running uncommercial routes to Railtrack, then this would make Railtrack more beholden to the Government, and ministers might have more leverage in dictating to Railtrack where it invests its money.

Since Sir Alastair Morton, head of the still phantom Strategic Rail Authority, has long shared the view that the more appropriate use of subsidy is to pay it directly to the rail infrastructure company, then the switch stands some chance of happening.

The outgoing Rail Regulator, Chris Boll, is expected to tell Mr Prescott formally this week that

there is nothing to stop him making the change, even though he will have to wait until the expiry of existing operating franchises before doing so.

The attractions to Mr Prescott are obvious. In other respects, however, this would be a quite retrograde step, taking the railways back to the bad old days of British Rail, when they were run by the Government. The present system, whereby the subsidy is paid to the TOCs, who then pay a correspondingly high access charge to Railtrack, may have its drawbacks, but at least it is transparent and accountable. In the days of British Rail, no-one seemed to have any idea where the public subsidy was being spent - least of all ministers and managers.

Railtrack is openly hostile to the idea - again for the obvious reason that it will lead to increased Government meddling. Railtrack also believes it will deter City investors at a time when it needs all the support it can get to fund its £27bn ten year investment programme.

This may be a trifle alarmist. The level of public subsidy in the railways is declining rapidly. By 2003/4, it will have fallen from the present level of £1.5bn annually to little more

than £500m a year. It is open to question what degree of leverage such a small amount will give the Government, or indeed whether switching it from the TOCs to Railtrack, is really going to matter very much.

On one level, however, Railtrack is right to be concerned. The key issue for the railways right now is investment. Since the public sector is unprepared to provide it, Railtrack and the Government have to find some way of persuading the private sector to do the business instead. While so many regulatory issues remain up in the air, of which the debate over who should receive the subsidy is just one, there seems little chance of doing so. Indeed, shareholders might do well to instruct their board to cease all investment until they know precisely what it is they are dealing with.

## Kwik-Fit/Ford

IF THERE'S no money to be made in manufacturing, move into services. That, in a nutshell, seems to be the strategy behind Ford's £1bn acquisition of Kwik-Fit, as well as its planned takeover of the RAC, where it is a shortlisted bidder. Ford

executives were yesterday waxing lyrical about "cradle to grave" service, the concept of a total motoring company which would sell you your car, service it, repair it at the roadside, maintain it in roadworthy condition and presumably eventually consign it to the crusher.

The idea sounds logical enough. Most people probably spend at least the cost of a car keeping it on the road over the lifetime of the vehicle, so it may make sense for a manufacturer to tap into that afterbirth market.

But there is absolutely no reason why those who shop at Kwik-Fit should be any more prone to buy a Ford than they are already. The only possible synergy between Ford as a manufacturer and Kwik-Fit as a service provider would be if Ford chose to force its own exhausts and other components through the Kwik-Fit network.

If that's the case, then the competition authorities might want to take a close look, not withstanding Ford's insistence that there are no such issues to address. Otherwise, these purchases should be seen as more of a diversification for Ford away from manufacturing, rather than a logical extension of it.

News Analysis: As earnings tumble at the leading PC maker, is a price war looming?

# Compaq drops a bomb on IT sector

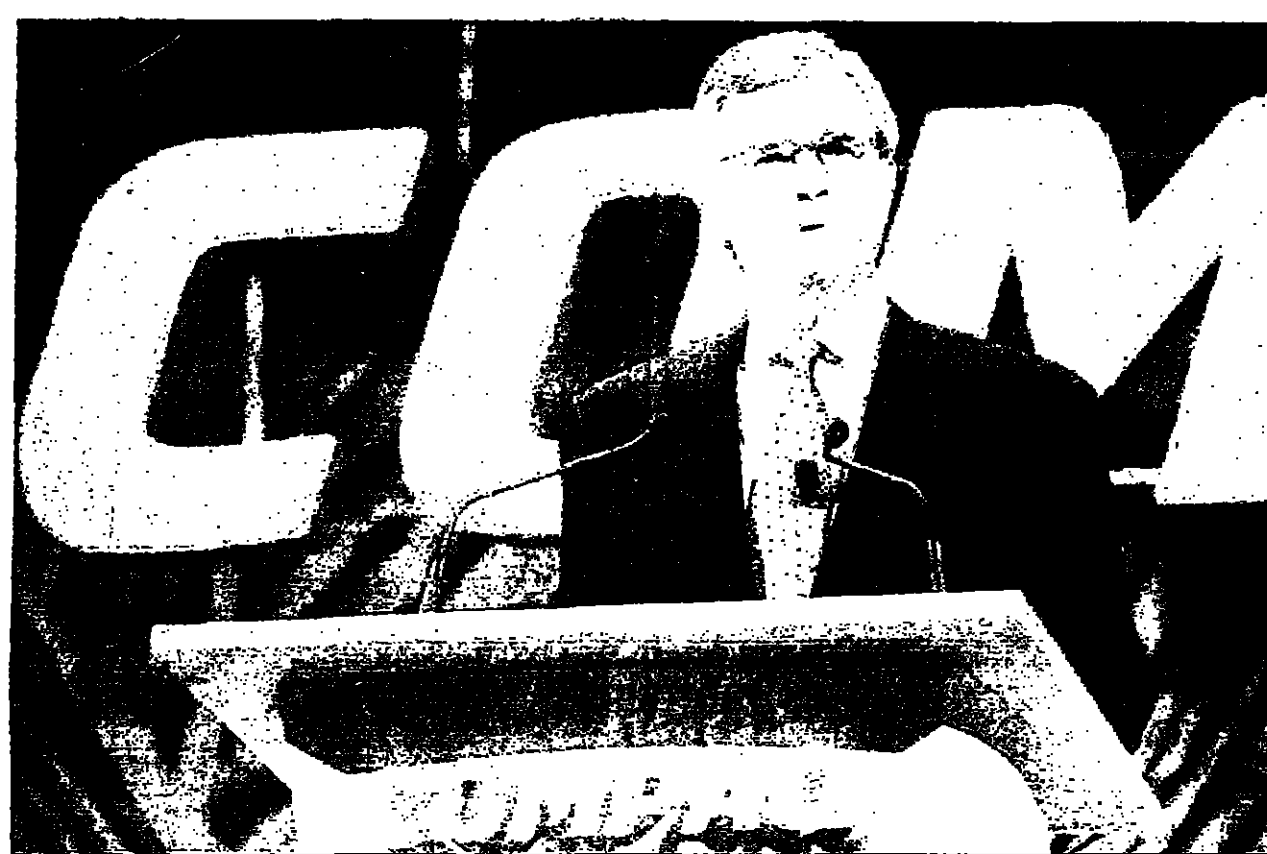
IT WAS no wonder the world's equity and currency markets began the week with a bit of a wobble. After New York closed on Friday, Compaq Computer let slip news no one wanted to hear - its first-quarter earnings would be around 15 cents a share, half of analysts' forecasts. Compaq's shares tumbled in after-hours trading. The spectre of a bloody personal computer price war loomed.

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

Does the springtime cold at Compaq translate into a flu epidemic, not just for other PC makers but also for other sector players, including processor manufacturers such as Intel and software suppliers, including Microsoft?

And what are the implications for the broader US economy? This industry, after all, has been vital in powering the boom of recent years, buoying up both the Nasdaq and Dow and helping to reinforce high consumer confidence. Everyone wishes its continued good health.

The timing of the Compaq shock was hardly helpful. There were loud mutterings in New York yesterday that Compaq seemed by not getting word of its problems to Wall Street earlier than Friday. Instead, it spoiled



Eckhard Pfeiffer, Compaq chairman: His plea not to 'blow this out of proportion' has not reassured everyone

the IT party at the worst possible moment - at the start of the first-quarter results season. The full Compaq picture will emerge with its 21 April report.

Punishment for Compaq was swift, yesterday. At midday in New York its shares were down 23 per cent. Several leading analysts were downgrading ratings as they offered varying diagnoses for what ails it. These include difficulties in melding Compaq with Digital Equipment Corporation, which it bought last year. Many analysts

predicted that embattled chief executive Eckhard Pfeiffer would have to make more staff cuts in coming weeks.

Compaq's central challenge, however, may be how to maintain share in an environment of rapidly-falling PC prices without butchering its profit margins. Some analysts suggest that Compaq may have botched its attempts, launched last year, to begin selling direct to consumers - business and private - over the telephone and Internet, while still maintaining its network of retail distributors.

Snapping at Compaq's heels are Dell and Gateway, each credited with pioneering direct selling in the industry. The proportion of PCs sold directly is expected to reach 29 per cent this year, compared to 13.5 per cent in 1995.

Morgan Stanley analyst Gillian Munson was among those voicing frustration with Compaq's warning. "The shortfall is far worse than the ranges that were thought probable," she said, adding that it indicated

"that Compaq's business model is not working in this market environment. It will take some time, in our view, for the stock to come back from this disappointment and the related loss of confidence".

The consensus among the analysts vanished, however, on the wider implications of Compaq's first-quarter debacle. One school said the slowdown in demand had heralded problems for the entire industry. They pointed to the so-called "millennium factor", where business customers may have been rushing to buy equipment well in advance of 2000, which could spell a freeze in demand for the rest of this year. Another school says the problems are mostly Compaq-specific; they highlight recent commentaries from Dell and Microsoft suggesting a still-healthy outlook.

For now, the jury is still out. All eyes will be on other IT first-quarter numbers, especially from Intel, due to report after the market closes today, and Microsoft and Dell. Intel, more

than Compaq, is considered a bellwether for the industry.

For what it is worth, the slaughter that some feared in New York yesterday did not materialise. The early slide on the Dow was quickly reversed, and even the Nasdaq saw only a modest midday decline.

For its part, Compaq tried to soothe investor nerves. In a conference call with analysts, Mr Pfeiffer and his chief financial officer, Earl Mason, insisted that cost-cutting plans related to the \$8.4bn (£5.2bn) takeover of DEC were on track and denied that Compaq was discussing any new lay-offs or restructuring ideas.

"This should not be blown out of proportion," Mr Pfeiffer said of Friday's announcements in an interview with the Wall Street Journal. "Everyone is building expectations on certain market demand growth. If it comes at a somewhat lower level, the competitive reaction leads to price cuts that are deeper and more frequent. We had both these factors in the last quarter."

# Buffett builds up stake in UK blue chip

WARREN BUFFETT, the legendary stock market investor, is building up a stake in a mystery UK-listed company.

Mr Buffett, a stock market guru and one of the world's richest men, said he would soon be forced by UK trading rules to make an announcement because his stake was approaching three per cent.

In a rare public appearance in London, Mr Buffett said he started buying the mystery company two months ago. He declined say when his stake would pass the three per cent mark. "It depends on what the price does," he said.

The US billionaire also refused to say whether the company - like many of his other investments - sold consumer products. But Mr Buffett, a one-time investor in Guinness, did hint that the company was a large UK blue chip. He said: "We do have a certain-sized requirement for investments. We need elephants now."

Mr Buffett who was promoting NetJets, his airline timeshare business, denied he was stalking the UK company. The shares had been bought by

BY LEA PATERSON

Berkshire Hathaway, his Nebraska-based investment vehicle. He said Berkshire Hathaway had \$15bn in cash earmarked for investment, but high valuations of most stocks meant buying opportunities were thin on the ground.

He said: "If we're sitting on that kind of money it means we're having a hard time finding things to buy. If we find a good business run by honest and able businessmen we will buy it. If not we will wait."

The Berkshire Hathaway chairman declined to comment on the overall direction of US stocks or on particular companies in his investment portfolio.

Mr Buffett reaffirmed his commitment to two of his larger shareholdings, Coca Cola and Gillette, whose shares have been hit by earnings worries.

Mr Buffett brushed aside the global slowdown. "The macro-economy makes no difference to us. I don't read economic forecasts. I don't read the funny papers. I simply try to figure out where a business will be 10 years from now."

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### Legal Notices

The Insolvency Act 1986  
MACKENZIE CREAN LIMITED  
(in Administration)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 236(1) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above named company will be held at the Lakes Hotel, 234 London Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire on Thursday 22 April 1999 at 10.00 am to consider the best administrative proposals.

Points to be considered at the meeting may be lodged at 10.00 am on the business day prior to the meeting.

Rule 2.21 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 (subject to the provisions of the meeting) a person is entitled to vote if, at the time of the meeting, he is a creditor of the company and his name is entered in the register of creditors.

Dated this 11th day of April 1999  
M W Young and N I Hamilton-Smith,  
Joint Administrators

### Public Notices

No. 001568 of 1999  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
COMPANIES COURT  
IN THE MATTER OF  
INTERNATIONAL MARINE  
SYSTEMS LIMITED  
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE  
COMPANIES ACT 1985  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 24 March 1999 confirming the Cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 6 April 1999.

Dated 13th April 1999  
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Ref: 64902V8256.56

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### NHS INFORMATION AUTHORITY

The inaugural Board Meeting of the Special Health Authority will be held in the Long Room of the Royal College of General Practitioners, 15 Princess Gate, London SW7 on Monday the 19th April 1999 at 10.00pm.

In accordance with the Code of Openness in the NHS, the meeting will be open to the Public.

Agenda:-

- Chairman's Introduction
- Constitution of the Authority
- Arrangements for Corporate and Financial Governance
- Developing the Authority and its staff
- Partnership arrangements with the NHS
- Schedule of future meetings

Enquiries to:  
M. Freeman on 0113 2546225  
or mfreeman@nhs.gov.uk

**NHS**  
Information Authority

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# Investor backs Electra proposals

THE GENERAL Electric pension fund, which holds 3 per cent of venture capital group Electra, said yesterday it is backing the management against the £1.25bn hostile bid from rival 3i.

It is the first investor to come out publicly ahead of today's vote on Electra's £544m reconstruction proposals that will decide the trust's fate.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

In addition to the direct stake in Electra Investment Trust, GE also has a number of direct investments in Electra-sponsored buyouts, which it is concerned could be upset by a change in ownership.

General Electric Investment manages the pensions contributions of employees with the American engineering giant, but is separate from GE Capital, which has been touted as a white bidder for Electra.

Jim Mara, a senior vice-president of GE Investment, said yesterday: "Electra has a management team we have known for 15 years. At this point, our position is that we are backing the known versus the

unknown management teams."

In addition to the direct stake in Electra Investment Trust, GE also has a number of direct investments in Electra-sponsored buyouts, which it is concerned could be upset by a change in ownership.

The big battalions, including Legal & General and Prudential, have so far refused to show their hands, although they are widely believed to have shifted in favour of 3i after the sharp rise in 3i's share price last week.

Electra's proposals to buy back 40 per cent of its capital from shareholders at 78p and wind up the trust within five years need the support of 75 per cent of shareholders.



**THE INDEPENDENT**  
Tuesday 13 April 1999

# Rival in £99

## Wray quits Forest and faces £1m

### Slowdown ease as s



# Rival wins Game in £99m takeover

ELECTRONICS BOUTIQUE, the specialist retailer of computer games, yesterday announced a £99.2m takeover of its struggling rival, Game, in a deal that gives it nearly a quarter of the booming market in electronic entertainment.

Executives revealed that the agreed cash-and-paper deal was struck at the behest of Game's shareholders, who were dissatisfied with an apparent fall in sales over Christmas - a crucial time in the games business.

Shareholders will be offered 1.0994 new shares in Electronics Boutique plus 41.7p in cash for each share in Game, valuing Game at around 131p. Shares in Game rose 5p to close at 126p, while shares in Electronics Boutique slipped 3p to 81.5p.

The offer represents a premium of 31 per cent over 102.5p, Game's closing price on 23 February - the last business day prior to the announcement by the EB board that it was in talks that might lead to an offer.

Neil Taylor, chairman of Game and one of two founders of the group, will

BY ANDREW VERITY

step down and is likely to sell 70 per cent of his stake in the group for a total of more than £18m. Paul Lloyd-Rosch, chief executive, and Nick Warran-Smith, finance director, have agreed to stay on.

John Steinbrecher, the chief executive of Electronics Boutique, yesterday said he would keep Game as a separate brand and insisted there would be "few, if any" job losses. None of the 182 stores at EB, or the 86 owned by Game, would close.

Executives insisted there would still be substantial cost savings through eliminating duplication in head offices and cutting distribution costs. "We feel there's a value with the two brands and we'll take every effort to keep the two brands separate," Mr Steinbrecher said.

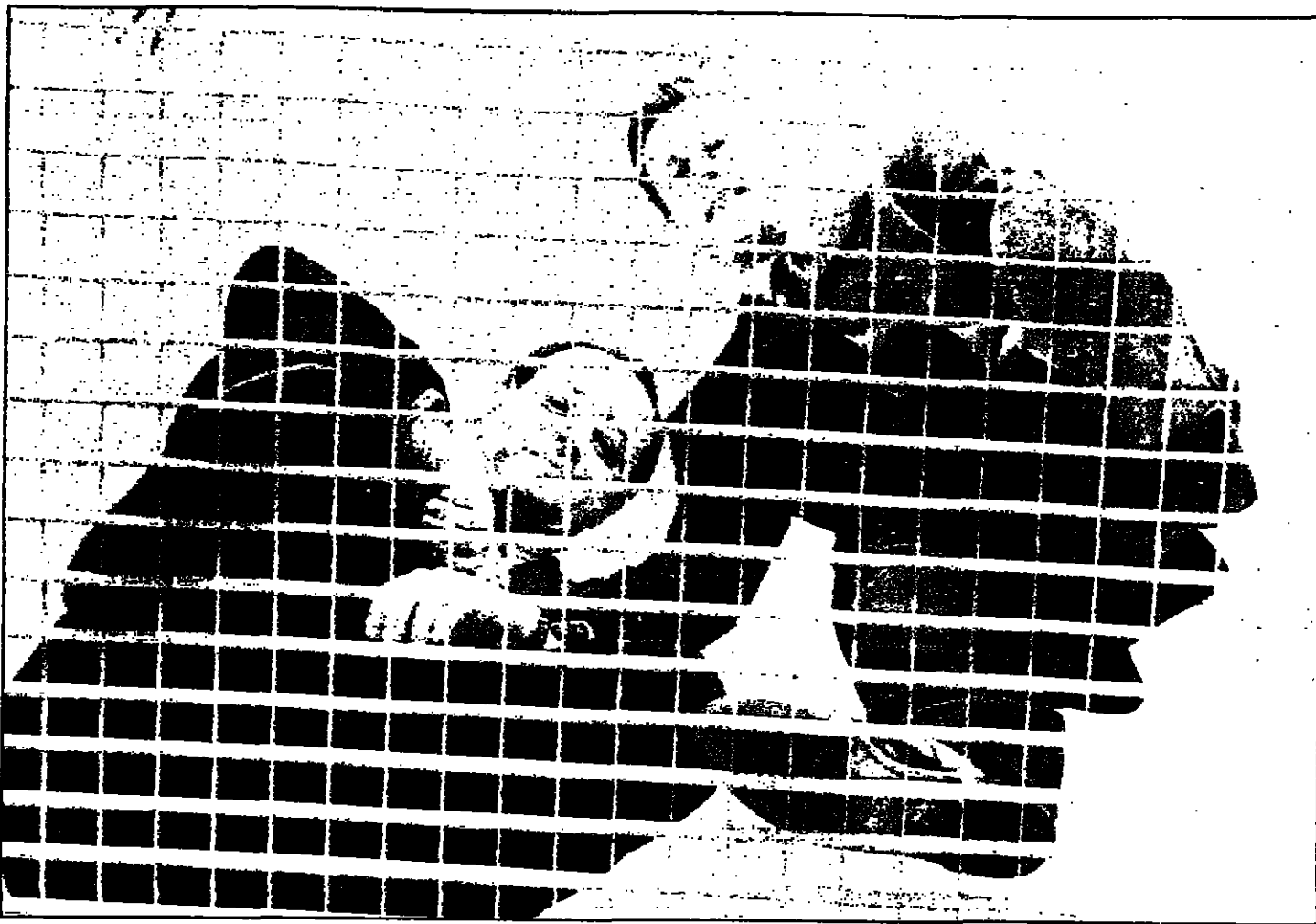
He said EB and Game had two different types of customer. "Game stores have a lot of video screens and music playing and tend to be in darker colours, and we think that attracts

more of the HMV/Virgin type of customer, as opposed to EB which attracts more the Dixons or Woolworths type of customer."

Mr Taylor said the market had over-reacted to a quirk in like-for-like sales figures caused by Game opening more stores than expected. Instead of showing a 3.9 per cent sales fall, it should have showed a 4.2 per cent rise. "It was an over-reaction, but there wasn't enough shareholder support for that view," he said.

EB has received undertakings from the directors of Game and other shareholders in respect of 45.1 per cent of the company's share capital. Game floated only last summer at 20p a share.

Along with the offer, EB announced its preliminary results for the year to 31 January. It reported pre-tax profits up by 91.7 per cent to £15.3m, while like-for-like sales increased 10.7 per cent. The board proposed a final dividend of 0.92p, making a total of 1.1p for the year.



John Steinbrecher, Electronics Boutique chief executive (left) and Martin Long, his deputy, pictured yesterday Andrew Burman

## Wray quits at Forest and faces £1m loss

NIGEL WRAY, chairman of property group, Burford, has resigned as chairman of Nottingham Forest football club to make way for Eric Barnes, deputy chairman of Great Universal Stores (GUS), one of Nottingham's biggest employers.

Mr Wray is halving his stake in the club by selling 5.7 per cent of Nottingham Forest to Mr Barnes and another 5.7 per cent to Philip Soar, the club's chief executive, who engineered Mr Wray's acquisition of the club two years ago.

Analysts estimate the sale leaves Mr Wray nursing a loss of around £1m on his original investment. Forest currently faces near-certain relegation from the Premiership. Sources close to Mr Wray insist he is still committed to his ownership of Saracens, the Premiership rugby union club.

Albert Scardino, an American journalist and husband of Pearson's chief executive, Marjorie Scardino, lost out to Mr Wray in the bid battle for Forest in 1997.

Yesterday Mr Scardino said of Mr Wray's move: "The club has squandered two years. This was a tragic lost opportunity to rebuild a great community asset. Nigel Wray was never very much involved in it [the club]. It's now much worse off than when he bought in."

Mr Wray himself said: "I have come to believe more and more that the club, as a Nottingham institution, must be run locally. I am absolutely delighted that Eric Barnes has

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

agreed to succeed me as chairman."

Property analysts estimate that Mr Wray put in about £3.2m of his own money when his consortium won the bid battle for Forest in the spring of 1997, buying Forest for £16m.

His sale of 2,515,000 ordinary shares at a price of 28p per share to Mr Barnes yesterday and the same number to Mr Soar should give him £1.2m, leaving him nursing a loss of around £1m on his original investment. He still owns 9.1 per cent of Forest's shares, worth around £1m at yesterday's market price. The shares yesterday fell 1.5p to 25p.

Mr Wray's consortium included Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman, and fellow London property developer Julian Markham. Mr Scholar continues to make most of the footballing decisions for Forest from his home in Monaco, while Mr Soar manages the business side.

Burford, the property developer, continues to be Mr Wray's main interest. He sold half his stake last September but still owns 5 per cent of the £450m company.

He is also involved with Prestbury, another property developer run by his old colleague Nick Leslau, as well as the fashionable London restaurant, Pharmacy, which he runs together with Damien Hirst, the artist of pickled-sheep fame.

## Slowdown fears ease as sales rise

THERE WERE fresh signs yesterday that the British economy is back on track as retailers reported rising sales and a survey of the UK financial sector revealed sharp increases in optimism.

The British Retail Consortium said that, like-for-like, sales last month were 3.9 per cent higher than in the period last year, and total sales were up 7.3 per cent. The opening of the giant Bluewater shopping centre in Kent boosted the retail numbers, while good weather helped sales of spring clothes and do-it-yourself products.

But the BRC cautioned that the timing of the Easter weekend - earlier this year than last - may have distorted the figures. Excluding sales in the week before Easter, like-for-like sales were up by just 0.9 per cent.

The Confederation of British Industry said confidence in UK financial institutions improved for the first time in a year after a marked pick-up in business volumes.

The latest CBI/PricewaterhouseCoopers financial services survey found that 38 per cent of firms were more optimistic in March than in December, with 14 per cent more pessimistic, for a net balance of 24 per cent of optimistic firms, compared with a balance of minus 27 per cent in

BY LEA PATERSON

December and minus 54 per cent in September.

Sudhir Junankar, CBI's associate director of economic analysis, said: "Financial service firms have started to shake off their slowdown fears. Confidence seems to be returning following the lows of the second half of last year, which then reflected concern about world financial turmoil and the apparent threat of a UK recession."

Financial services firms reported a pick-up in overall business, with a balance of 32 per cent expecting this growth to continue into the next quarter. Almost all sectors anticipated significant growth, the CBI said, particularly banks and life insurers. General insurers and building societies were among the few groups expecting volumes to decline.

Employment rose at its fastest rate since the fourth quarter of 1997. However, most companies expected to cut jobs in the next three months.

Mr Junankar said that financial services profitability rose as expected in the first quarter, but the squeeze on margins at banks is expected to persist through the next three months. The profits outlook for building societies was said to be brighter.

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North-PR Index 84.00	119.50	29.00			Skyphones P 60.00	-4.00	-6.60		
Hy Holdings 85.50	9.50	11.90			J&A Hodge 142.80	-11.00	-7.10		
West Group Pk282.50	23.80	9.60			Videologic G 67.50	-5.00	-6.80		
Plat Act Int 117.50	18.00	9.30			Celtic Pk 308.00	-22.50	-6.87		
Las Service 458.00	35.50	8.84			Tottenham R 69.50	-5.80	-6.71		
Yale Cate Pk 35.00	25.00	6.93			Yorkshire R 193.50	-7.80	-3.93		
Newcastle Int 81.50	6.00	7.95			Compartments355.50	-31.90	-8.48		
Stones Group 1984.00	114.00	7.86			Centurials 157.50	-5.80	-3.41		
Diamonds Gr 86.50	8.50	8.70			Glynedd Intl 153.00	-10.50	-6.16		
MARKET LEADERS									
TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm									
Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
Woolwich Pk 36.20s	37,420s	Shell Transp-Nat 11.50s	33,010s	Sainsbury Pk 8.00s	27,550s	London & Lanc 12.25s	26,750s	British Pk 2.17s	26,710s
Telecom Pk 27.40s	18,770s	Shell Int 13.80s	18,770s	British Pk 2.17s	26,710s	Woolwich Pk 36.20s	37,420s	Woolwich Pk 36.20s	37,420s
Telecom Pk 27.40s	18,770s	Shell Int 13.80s	18,770s	British Pk 2.17s	26,710s	Woolwich Pk 36.20s	37,420s	Woolwich Pk 36.20s	37,420s
Telecom Pk 27.40s	18,770s	Shell Int 13.80s	18,770s	British Pk 2.17s	26,710s	Woolwich Pk 36.20s	37,420s	Woolwich Pk 36.20s	37,420s
Telecom Pk 27.40s	18,770s	Shell Int 13.80s	18,770s	British Pk 2.17s	26,710s	Woolwich Pk 36.20s	37,420s	Woolwich Pk 36.20s	37,420s
FTSE 100 INDEX									
HOUR BY HOUR									
Open	5477.1	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
High	5477.1	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
Low	5469.5	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
Close	5469.5	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
52 week	5469.5	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
High	5477.1	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
Low	5469.5	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
Close	5469.5	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
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Close	5469.5	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
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High	5477.1	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
Low	5469.5	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
Close	5469.5	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
52 week	5469.5	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
High	5477.1	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
Low	5469.5	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
Close	5469.5	11:00	6424.3	Down 8.2	15:00	6415.8	Down 87.2		
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## SPORT

Five Nations reflections: Dramatic last twist in championship tale should not discourage England's enthusiasts

## Surprises galore in a glorious game

BY CHRIS HEWETT  
Rugby Union Correspondent

AFTER 78 minutes and 19 seconds of Sunday's final Five Nations gathering at Wembley the former Wales captain Eddie Butler informed Bill McLaren – and, by extension, millions of television viewers – that he considered England favourites to win this year's World Cup. Exactly 218 seconds later one of Butler's countrymen, Scott Gibbs, stamped through a thicket of red rose tacklers to deny the English the Grand Slam, the Triple Crown, the tournament title and just about everything else they had fought for over the previous two months. Funny lot, the Taffs. Forever letting each other down in public.

Actually, Butler should be in no particular rush to revise his opinion: favouritism might be a touch on the bold side, given England's penchant for losing winnable matches – Australia last November, Wales last weekend – but of the four teams inhabiting these islands, they remain by far the best equipped to square up to the perceived might of the southern hemisphere.

Perceived? Well, look at it this way: New Zealand, who visit Twickenham on 15 October for a game that will dictate the entire shape of the five-week World Cup competition, go into their 1999 Test programme on the back of six straight defeats. Who can say in advance of the forthcoming Tri-Nations tourna-

1999 FIVE NATIONS  
FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	4	3	0	1	120	79	6
England	4	3	0	1	103	78	6
Wales	4	2	0	2	109	126	4
Ireland	4	1	0	3	66	90	2
France	4	1	0	3	75	100	2

RESULTS: 1 Feb: Ireland 9 France 10; Scotland 33 Wales 20, 20 Feb: Wales 23 Ireland 29; England 24 Scotland 21, 6 March: France 33 Wales 34; Ireland 15 England 27, 20 March: England 21 France 10; Scotland 30 Ireland 13, 10 April: France 22 Scotland 36, 11 April: Wales 32 England 31.

ment that they have successfully sorted the wheat from the chaff?

Six months shy of the event the available evidence suggests that no one should die of shock if England see off the All Blacks this autumn, thereby saving themselves both a match and a whole lot of southern hemisphere hassle while dumping Taine Randell and his Silver Ferns in the same half of the draw as South Africa and Australia.

All things being equal they will have Jeremy Guscott, Phil de Glanville and Will Greenwood back to contest the midfield positions. Jonny Wilkinson will have another three caps and umpteen Test points in his locker and Tim Rodber will have more priceless experience as an international lock.

In the context of what is to come, Sunday's trauma beneath the twin towers was a smack in the chops rather than a knife between the shoulder blades.

Clive Woodward has a decision or two to make, however, the first and most urgent of which is now starting the coach square in the eyeballs. Wilkinson must play the summer Tests against the Wallabies, Canada and the United States at outside-half, where he can exert the full weight of his influence as a controller, an organiser and a drawer of the opposition sting.

This is not to dismiss Mike Catt from the red rose equation, although there are many in England who would happily pay his air fare back to Port Elizabeth. Catt should be given an immediate run at centre – inside or outside scarcely matters – for just as Wilkinson possesses the percentages that Catt lacks, Catt possesses raw pace, the one weapon obviously lacking in the young



Neil Jenkins prepares to put the final seal on the Five Nations Championship with the conversion that gave Wales victory over England

David Ashdown

back's otherwise formidable armoury. Switch them now, Clive. You know it makes sense.

Quite how to make sense of Scotland's sudden and spectacular rise to European pre-eminence is another issue altogether. Time for a touch of honesty here: 99 per cent of those of us paid to write about this ridiculous old game had the men in skirts down as stone-cold wooden-spoonsers and, of the remaining one per cent, none had sufficient neck to tip them as potential champions. Their subsequent flight in the face of form, logic and whatever else we use to evaluate a side's prospects in advance of the hostilities was an out-

standing feat of rugby aviation. Good on them.

After last November's defeat by South Africa at Murrayfield, Jim Telfer expressed the view that, with Matthew Proudfoot and Gordon Simpson on the way back from injury, the Scots had the makings of a half-decent pack. Laughing Jim got it wrong. The Scots had the makings of a fully decent pack, even without their two big-brothers from south of the equator. That Proudfoot and Simpson – not to mention Daddie Weir, Bryan Redpath and Jamie Mayer – will fight tooth and nail for World Cup places this autumn gives Telfer a luxury he has previously

experienced only on Lions tours: namely, enough strength in depth to force his selection meetings into a second minute.

It may well be that under the current line-out laws, where flexibility and liftability cut more ice than pure bulk, and with referees frowning ever more darkly on prone bodies spreadeagled around the tackle area, the Scots have grabbed the zeitgeist in ranging their light infantry against everyone else's heavy artillery. They are blessed with a once-in-a-generation rugby genius in Gregor Townsend and, in John Leslie, a midfield craftsman of sound mind and judgement. Leslie

cannot be pigeon-holed merely as his stand-off's amanuensis – he is too much of an instigator for that – but he is certainly the anchor that keeps Townsend's flights of fancy within the realms of the possible.

If Graham Henry has anything to do with it – and Henry carries so much clout down Cardiff way these days that he probably has everything to do with it – there will be more Leslie than Townsend about the Welsh reaction to Sunday's wonderfully romantic uprising in north London. The national coach, very much a one-step-at-a-time Messiah as opposed to a "Lo, there shall be light" type, insists that his Red

Dragons cannot yet be considered a "top team". He is right, of course; players and supporters alike will remember the victory over England until their dying day, but they should also remember the pig's ear they made of the Scotland match and the shambolic indiscipline that led to their demise against the Irish.

All the same, Henry was cute enough to use the Irish setback as an excuse to reshape the pack in his own image; the emergence of Peter Rogers and Ben Evans in the front row was, and is, a mighty bonus for a nation still living in the bygone era of Graham Price and the Viet Gwent. Whether they will still be seen as a bonus by the time Federico Mendez and his fellow Argentinians have finished mashing them into corned beef in Buenos Aires this summer remains to be seen. If the tight-five emerge smiling from that little test of sinew and spirit, Wales will surely reach a first World Cup quarter-final in 12 years.

As for Ireland and France, the Five Nations told us everything (about the former) and nothing (about the latter). Ireland have forwards – big, hard, horrible forwards – but they remain in a time-war, particularly when the gifted Eric Miller is relegated to bench duty. That the *Tricolours* did not even make it to the starting post was the tournament's only downer, but they will be a different proposition come World Cup time: Sadoorny, Glas, Magne, the Lièvre-mont brothers and, quite probably, Benazzi will be back to rekindle the flame.

The Five Nations flame will not be rekindled, of course; Italy join the happy throng next year and they will bring something new and unpredictable to the expanded competition. After this season's fun and games, it is not at all clear how much more unpredictability we can take.

## CHRIS HEWETT'S TEAM OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

**15 MATT PERRY** (England): The artist as labourer. Perry can paint the Sistine Chapel and the skirting board with equal facility: sublime finish in Dublin, crucial try-saving tackle on Dominici at Twickenham, geometrist's angle to create Luger's try at Wembley. Just edges out Shane Howarth.

**14 DAN LUGER** (England): Physical, very quick, and hungry enough to go looking for work – quite a departure for a Harlequin. At home on either wing, he may soon replace David Rees as Clive Woodward's favourite wide man. Indeed, the Luger-Hanley combination has a World Cup look to it.

**13 JONNY WILKINSON** (England): Kicks like Neil Jenkins, tackles like Philippe Sella, handles the teenage fame like Michael Owen. A little short of gas, certainly, but no one has it all. Should he suddenly develop a sprinter's pace, the rest can pack up and go home.

**12 JOHN LESLIE** (Scotland): So John Hart, the all-seeing New Zealand coach, has a blind spot after all. Fancy letting this guy through the net. Leslie grew through the championship, organising and laying-off and tackling and supporting

and doing everything right. A joy to watch.

**11 CHRISTOPHE DOMINICI** (France): A light in the darkness, a spring flower in the wasteland. So much went wrong for France between Dublin in early February and Paris in mid-April that it would have been simple to pick a Five Nations side devoid of *Tricolours*. Dominici at least showed some pride.

**10 GREGOR TOWNSEND** (Scotland): The main man. Give Townsend a service from scrum-half and a safety net at inside centre and he will fry an opposing midfield alive. The way Edinburgh's finest plays it, rugby is still a game of the imagination rather than a game of the bicep. A treasure.

**9 GARY ARMSTRONG** (Scotland): Kyran Bracken and Rob Howley may be Europe's state-of-the-art No 9s, but this man is the beating heart of the scrum-half tribe: gritty, resilient, implacable. If Jim Telfer had been a half-back, he would have resembled an elongated Armstrong. What a thought.

**1 TOM SMITH** (Scotland): That Smith carries so much on his shoulders probably explains his peculiar physique: he strikes you as someone

who has laboured too long under a heavy load. By the time he broke a leg against Ireland, he had set the standard for the Scottish pack.

**2 KEITH WOOD** (Ireland): Faded along with his countrymen, but no one who witnessed his madcap heroics against the French in Dublin will dispute Wood's uniqueness. Smear with blue sponsor's paint, he looked and played like Hiawatha. Wild Bill Hickok and Buster Keaton combined. Quite an act.

**3 DARREN GARFORTH** (England): Like good wine, Georgian architecture and dear old Jeff Probyn, England's oddball improves with age: big heart, big appetite, big tackle count, small error count. Garforth, like Smith, is a silent type, which means Wood could talk for all three.

**4 MARTIN JOHNSON** (England): The best front-jumping lock in the world, end of story. Scott Murray enjoyed a wonderful championship in the Scotland engine room, but no selector with his brain fully engaged would leave the Leicester captain kicking his heels in the dug-out. Pure class.

**5 TIM RODBER** (England): Did not enjoy his finest 90 seconds of his career as the clock ran down at

Wembley on Sunday: one illegal tackle (apparently) and one missed tackle gave Scott Gibbs the chance he needed. Still, the other 330 minutes of the tournament underlined his importance.

**6 COLIN CHARVIS** (Wales): A Lion in the making, definitely. Along with Chris Wyatt, a heroic line-out figure, Charvis gave the Welsh pack its edge. Its authority, its competitive streak. He also gave Graham Henry a base on which to construct a forward unit capable of living with the best this autumn.

**7 RICHARD HILL** (England): A controversial call, perhaps. Neil Back is, regardless of his costly *faux pas* against Wales, a remarkable talent, but Hill made the English back row tick while playing out of position on the blind-side flank. Think what he could achieve if he was played in his rightful place.

**8 LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO** (England): Two almighty games against Ireland and Wales: the force of his tackling and the dynamism of his driving confirmed him as Europe's most accomplished loose forward. Only Abdel Benazzi, the former French captain, demands comparison – and he is out of favour.

HIGHS AND  
WOES OF  
THE FIVE  
NATIONSGAME OF THE  
CHAMPIONSHIP:  
WALES V ENGLAND

"But what about those try-laden classics at the Stade de France?" you ask. It depends what you mean by classic. The France-Wales match certainly had a tingle about it, but the whole point about Wembley on Sunday was that the players not only ran, but tackled. Rugby is its true self only when the beauty shares centre stage with the beast.

ANGUISHED CRY OF  
THE CHAMPIONSHIP:  
RAPHAEL IBANEZ

The French captain let rip at Philippe Carboneau as Gregor Townsend bisected the two of them en route to the *Tricolore* line for Scotland's third try in five unfathomable minutes. So primal was the Ibanez scream that it lifted him clean off his feet. His voice now hoarse, he suffered the remaining 66 minutes of Scottish humiliation in silence.

SPONSORS'  
BLUNDER OF THE  
CHAMPIONSHIP:  
LANSOWNE ROAD

All that rain, all that paint, all that embarrassment. The cynics among us still suspect one of two things: one, that it was an attempt to introduce "player branding" through the back door or, two, that it was a clever French plot to get Keith Wood playing in a blue shirt. Either way, it looked pretty daft.

STRAW-CLUTCHING  
QUOTE OF THE  
CHAMPIONSHIP:  
CLIVE WOODWARD

"As we speak, Jeremy Guscott is 100 per cent fit," said the England coach last Wednesday on announcing his side for the Wales match. He might, of course, have added: "By the time we stop speaking, he'll probably be 100 per cent unfit." Guscott pulled out the following morning.

ABIDING MEMORY OF  
THE CHAMPIONSHIP:  
FIVE DRUNKEN  
WELSHMEN

No, not a tight five of drunken Welshmen, but a quintet of tired and emotional red-shirted supporters who serenaded the working press long into Sunday evening with endless choruses of a new Stereophonics number entitled "As Long As We Beat The English". Well, it was better than "Swing Low Sweet Chariot".

## TOP POINT SCORERS

N Jenkins (Wales)	64
J Wilkinson (England)	60
D Humphreys (Ireland)	51
K Logan (Scotland)	37
T Castaignède (France)	28
A Tait (Scotland)	25
E Ntamack (France)	20
G Townsend (Scotland)	20

FIVE NATIONS  
TITLES

England	22
Wales	22
Scotland	14
France	12
Ireland	10

## Wales found redemption at church of Wembley

EVEN BEFORE the climax to Sunday's game, I thought I could understand why my fellow-countrymen – and, increasingly, countrywomen – took to Wembley as they did. To the working classes the stadium was always the greatest sporting temple in the islands, prominently featured (along with the Albert Hall and Broadcasting House) in all the children's encyclopaedias.

Congregations would attend to watch the Cup finals in both football and rugby league. There they saw England beat West Germany in the World Cup. They would fill the church to its then-capacity of 100,000 for the match between England and Scotland: once one of the great occasions in the sporting calendar, now part of the faded scrapbook, as forgotten as Russian books or the New Look.

Twickenham, by contrast, was a

ALAN  
WATKINS

cold place; home of promises broken, hopes unfulfilled. In its modern, grey, concrete clothing it is even more menacing, partly because the English have lost some of their inhibitions (though off the field rather than on it) and at last learnt to sing loudly if not always tunelessly.

Sunday's game did seem like a genuine home match for Wales, taking place in Cardiff rather than in north London. "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" used to be sung mainly in the dressing-rooms of such teams as Harlequins and Richmond. It was then adopted by the Twickenham crowd. On Sunday it was sung only once, not very convincingly at that.

This was odd, because England were the better side. At half-time they were leading not only on points but by three tries to nil.

I do not want to take anything away from Wales' fighting spirit in the second half or from Scott Gibbs' great try, which will go down in rugby history and Welsh mythology. In 50 years' time, if the game is still being played in Wales, he will have beaten not six Englishmen, but an entire XV.

The hero of the early evening, however, was Neil Jenkins. Here I claim some consistency. In Wales' darkest days, when they were being beaten by such countries such as Western Samoa – and when I remarked that it was lucky they had not been playing the whole of Samoa – it was Jenkins' boot which gave the scoreline a semblance of respectability.

He was also a perfectly competent outside-half. Any other country, even New Zealand after Grant Fox or South Africa after Joel Stransky, would have welcomed him into their side. Only in Wales did he find no honour. He was blamed for not being Barry John or Phil Bennett, Cliff Morgan or David Watkins. I wrote this at the time not only to encourage the boy but also because I believed it to be true.

In 1997 Jenkins, with a little help from Gibbs, Jeremy Guscott, Matt Dawson and others, won a Lions series in South Africa. But he did not enjoy himself because he was playing full-back, with Gregor Townsend the first choice at outside-half and, after Townsend was injured, Mike Catt.

On his return to Wales he informed the authorities – this was before the accession of Graham Henry – that if he was not to be picked at outside-half, he did not want to be picked at all. Wisely, Henry acceded to Jenkins' demand, not simply for the sake of peace and concord, but because he considered him to be good at his job.

Henry's other achievements include solving the loose-head problem with Peter Rogers and accommodating the Quinell brothers

who, as they say in Wales, have no harm in them – except sometimes on the field. He should still be looking for at least one wing.

Rogers I consider to be a legitimate Welsh selection. His father came from near Llanelli and, like Craig Quinell, he was educated at Llandovery. Tony Horton, like him, learnt his propping in South Africa: that did not make him any the less an Englishman. But other players such as Shane Howarth and Brett Sinkinson for Wales, Glenn Metcalfe and the Leslie brothers for Scotland – true New Zealanders all – present two difficulties.

The first concerns the World Cup. They may well find themselves playing for Scotland or Wales against what is in reality their native land. All the indications are that they will want to play, their

respective British Isles countries will pick them and New Zealand or South Africa (whence some players hail) also will raise no objections.

The second difficulty concerns the next Lions tour; if it ever takes place. It was raised by Gerald Davies in another newspaper a couple of weeks ago. His view, and that of several other former Lions he had spoken to, was that a more stringent qualification process for players is needed than the one applied to the Five (or soon to be Six Nations) Championship and the World Cup.

Can a player be an honorary Welshman, Scotsman or Irishman for one rugby purpose, but not for another? At any rate there is a perfectly good Lions replacement for John Leslie in Scott Gibbs, who now joins the pantheon.



# Ferrari's fragile ambitions buoyed in Brazil

**IF YOU** believed the pessimists in Interlagos last Thursday, Ferrari's chances of winning the world championship had long been sluiced away in the Australian Grand Prix, even though Eddie Irvine won that race. The sheer speed of the McLarens had so stunned the team that the less psychologically strong members had already sunk deep into typically Italian doom and gloom. Last weekend in Brazil their mood went up and down faster than inflation in São Paulo, but after Michael Schumacher's strong drive to second place a new mood of optimism pervaded the camp.

This fragile psychology must drive the team's pragmatists, such as the technical director,

Ross Brawn, and sporting director, Jean Todt, to distraction, for it is like a jack-in-the-box perpetually coiled, ready to spring forth the moment anyone lifts the lid to peep inside.

The underlying problem for the sport's most charismatic team is that this is the third consecutive season in which their pre-season optimism has been shattered in the first race. And it is 20 years since Jody Scheckter rode a Francing Horse to a world title.

Hiring Schumacher – a man whose salary could take a chunk out of third-world debt – has been the most costly undertaking in the *Scuderia*'s illustrious history and there are people who want to see a return on the stag-

Michael Schumacher's second place at São Paulo has calmed fears that this year's F1 championship may be a one-horse race. By David Tremayne

that they gave us last year was bloody great. That tyre had fantastic traction, you could do anything with it. We haven't quite got to that stage yet with the tyres we have this year."

Despite such technical setbacks, there are no signs that Ferrari will roll over and die after their poor opening race. That is something for which F1 fans can feel profoundly grateful.

Ferrari's race performance was much more convincing on Sunday after aerodynamic changes enabled Schumacher to look far more competitive than he had in Melbourne. Though McLaren still had the performance edge, second place was a dramatic - and

Italian team. And the reliability of both of their cars further increased their lead in the constructors' championship, too. It is McLaren doing the chasing right now. "We have a great team at Ferrari," Brawn says. "We're doing plenty of work, and if we can perform the way we did last year, we can do it."

Schumacher was delighted, and that is always bad news for rivals. "McLaren have set the target and we know what we have to do to reach that level of performance, and then to exceed it," he warned. "Ferrari has every capability to achieve this and we started to prove that this weekend. The points situation doesn't worry me at

**The Masters verdict:** Relaxed Spaniard dedicates second success to family and the doctor who helped him play again

# Olazabal appears serene in green

**BY ANDY FARRELL**  
in Augusta

GREG NORMAN has had his share of 18th-hole hugs at Augusta. Jose Maria Olazabal's embrace of the Australian after winning the 63rd U.S. Masters followed a similar gesture by Nick Faldo three years ago. "Jose is a lot thinner," Normman said when asked to compare the two experiences. Olazabal's victory, his second at Augusta which meant Mark O'Meara helped the Spaniard into his own green jacket, complete with the mis-spelling of his name on the inside label ("Olazabel"), was a truly emotional moment. Not least when Ollie was asked what he would do on returning home. Tears intervened before he could reply: "I will embrace my family, for sure."

second shot at the 17th and a 7ft par-putch which maintained his two-stroke lead going to the last. That was his winning margin over Davis Love, the runner-up for the second time. Norman, one further back in third, finished in the top-three for the sixth time at Augusta.

"Of course I wanted to win, but at the same time I believe Greg deserves a green jacket as much as anyone else," said Olazabal, who told the Australian as much in the recorder's hut. "I was impressed when he waited for me to share the walk up the 18th and it was nice what he said afterwards," Norman said. "Jose is a good person. He cares about the people around him."

Olazabal has, however, sometimes lacked confidence in his own abilities, although his precise iron play and magical

He added: "I am happy for myself but also all my family and friends who supported me through the bad times. To be

here with the green jacket is an achievement I couldn't dream about when I was at my lowest." That was in the summer of 1996 when he could barely walk. A proud and private individual, the 33 year old withdrew from the world, even from his family who live in the same house on the Royal San Sebastian course where his grandfather and then father were the greenkeeper. "The situation was so bad that there was nothing even my parents or sister could say to cheer me up," he said. "I would not wish it on anyone. I just tried to hang on to hope."

Diazabal (right) and Sergio Garcia enjoy a Spanish double after Garcia finished as top amateur. *Reuters*

## THE EUROPEAN MASTERS

Jose Maria Olazabal's victory on Sunday night was the 11th by a European player in the event over the past 20 years.

the parade of champions is:

1980 - Seve Ballesteros	1995 - Sandy Lyle
1983 - Seve Ballesteros	1989 - Nick Faldo
1985 - Bernhard Langer	1990 - Nick Faldo
	1991 - Ian Woosnam
	1993 - Bernhard Langer
	1994 - Jose Maria Olazabal
	1996 - Nick Faldo
	1999 - Jose Maria Olazabal

short game have given him a superb record at Augusta. But he only really believed in himself when Gary Player took him aside at last Tuesday's champions' dinner. "He looked at me with those eyes of his and kept saying that I needed to believe in myself. The determination in his words and the way he said them helped me a lot."

Olazabal's victory was the first in a major by a European for three years. While it has

That hope arrived in the form of a Munich doctor, Hans-Wilhelm Muller-Wohlfahrt, who found the answer to Olazabab's foot trouble was in a veterbrae problem in his lower back. "Part of this victory goes to him," Ollie said. "Without him it would not be here. He did a wonderful job."

"I will enjoy this victory more than the first one because of everything that has happened. The most positive thing

to come out of all my problems and that I appreciate things in life more, things like just being able to go out and enjoy the weather or the scenery or being on a golf course."

As they played in the final pairing of Sunday's round, Norman detected a serenity in the Spaniard that he recognized as something he came to appreciate during his nine-month lay-off due to a shoulder surgery last year. "He looked in control," Norman said. "At times it didn't feel like the final round of the Masters. He made me look that easy."

"I wish I had this fresh approach to life 20 years ago. It's been my goal," he said. "It's been my goal."

Norman said he had been in the clubhouse since 1986, when he was 19 years old. He had been in the clubhouse since 1986, when he was 19 years old. He had been in the clubhouse since 1986, when he was 19 years old.

what I was feeling on Sunday night was 99 per cent disappointment. Tonight it is 20 per cent disappointment and 80 per cent success at having a chance to win again. That's the bit you miss."

Norman received a huge roar from the gallery when he eagled the 13th, but Olazabal made his birdie to stay tied for the lead. "We looked at each other and we both understood," Olazabal said of their exchange of gestures. Norman bogeyed the next two while Olazabal hit a six-iron to three feet at the 16th and holed for birdie. "It was only three feet but you can't imagine how difficult it was," he said.

There remained a superb

Ollie should not need to be picked as a wild card as he has so often in the past. Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam picked up useful points and Lee Westwood went a long way to joining Colin Montgomerie as a guaranteed qualifier.

In getting himself into a share of the lead as he stood on the 10th tee, Westwood can now be said to have contended for a major for the first time. That he immediately dropped four shots on three of the hardest holes on the course was var-



**Hugs at the 18th: Jose Maria Olazabal (left) embraces his rival Greg Norman** AP

"There is no doubt in my mind after today that I can win a major," Westwood said. "It was nice to get into a position to win for the first time. Obviously, the 10th, 11th and 12th were disappointing but to be under-under from there on was pleasing. I enjoyed every minute of it out there. They say the Masters does not begin

until the back nine on Sunday and you don't realise how true that is until you stand on the hill at 11 overlooking Arnen Corner. I have to admit my stomach was in knots.

From tee to green Woods coped well with a course that was meant to be Tiger-proofed but he had even less luck on the greens than Montgomerie usually has, which is saying something. The other man whom all the build up was about, the world No 1, David Duval, did make a last-day charge. His 70

was the lowest score of the day but, after going in the pond at 11, he could not quite set a target to trouble the leaders.

Asked if the expectations had been too high at the start of the week for a man who had won the previous two tournaments, Duval replied: "No, but it is never a good bet to pick one player to win. I'd take the field against your player and I'll win more often, even if you pick me. I came in playing well and thinking well, but I failed to put it all together."

# FINAL RESULTS FROM AUGUSTA

(US unless scored "foreign, amateur")

**280**  
J M Olazábal (Sp) 70 66 73 71

**282**  
D Love 69 72 70 71

**283**  
G Norman (Aus) 71 66 71 73

**284**  
B Estes 71 72 66 72  
S Fere 71 75 65 73

**285**  
P Duval 71 74 70 70  
P Mickelson 74 69 71 71  
J Westwood (GB) 75 71 68 71  
M Padal (Csm) 69 72 71 73  
C Franco (Par) 72 72 69 73

**287**  
B Langer (Ger) 76 66 72 73  
S Elkington 70 72 70 74  
C Mongomery (GB) 70 72 71 74

**288**  
B Jobe 72 71 74 71  
J Woosnam (GB) 71 74 71 72  
J Furyk 72 73 70 73  
L Jansen 70 69 75 72

**289**  
B Chamberl 69 73 75 72  
J Leonard 70 72 73 74  
B Glasson 72 70 73 74  
T Woods 72 72 70 75  
S McCarron 69 68 76 76

**290**  
L Milze 76 70 72 72

**291**  
V Singh (Pki) 72 76 71 72  
P U Johnson (Sri) 75 72 71 73  
B Faron 74 73 68 75

**292**  
F Couples 74 71 76 71  
R Mediate 73 74 68 76  
B Cink 74 70 71 77  
E Els (SA) 71 72 69 80

**293**  
S Moriyama (Japan) 76 70 71 74  
T Lehman 73 72 73 75  
B Watts 73 75 70 77  
J Blum 70 75 70 78  
M O'Meara 70 76 69 78

**294**  
A Magee 70 77 72 71  
J Hurn 74 72 71 77

**295**  
M Brooks 76 72 75 72  
S Garcia (Sp) 72 75 75 73  
B Andrade 76 72 72 75  
A Bledsoe 69 68 70 76  
S Stricker 72 76 70 77  
C Stadler 72 76 69 79

**296**  
J Haas 74 69 79 79  
T Mian 73 73 74 77  
T Horton 75 68 74 79  
S Hoch 75 73 70 79

**297**  
C Perry (Aus) 75 73 73 77  
S Lyle (GB) 71 77 70 78

**298**  
M Kuchar 77 71 73 78  
C Perry 73 72 74 80

**299**  
B Tway 75 73 78 74  
P Stewart 73 75 77 75  
O Browne 74 75 72 80  
J Daly 72 76 71 81

**305**  
T Immelman (SA) 72 76 78 79

**Leading positions in the European Ryder Cup table after the Masters**  
1 C Montgomerie (Scot) 6,480 Points;  
2 J M Olazábal (Sp) 6,470;  
3 J Westwood (Eng) 6,216;  
4 A J Jimenez (Sp) 5,815;  
5 D Clarke (N Ire) 5,485;  
6 S Fere (Ger) 5,469;  
7 A Calvo (Cze) 5,234;  
8 D Hovind (Den) 5,233;  
9 J Breda (Bel) 5,232;  
10 A C. Garcia (Sp) 5,232;  
11 R Karlsson (Swe) 5,232;  
12 P Sjoland (Swe) 5,232;  
13 M. Padal (Csm) 5,232;  
14 S. Fere (Ger) 5,232;  
15 T. Mian (Den) 5,232;  
16 J. Westwood (Eng) 5,232;  
17 P. Laverne (Scot) 5,232;  
18 J. Blum (Eng) 5,232;  
19 J. Furyk (USA) 5,232;  
20 P. U Johnson (Sri) 5,232

## Parrott is the Crucible value

**THERE ARE** times when it is best simply to listen to the experts. And Tim Pickering, the Tote's odds-compiling genius who has an encyclopedic knowledge of everything from indoor bowls to snooker, reckons John Parrott is a good reach-away bet with Ladbrokes at 25-1 for the World Snooker Championship, which starts at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield this weekend.

Pickering says: "John Higgins is a solid favourite and looks sure to reach the quarter-finals, but he will find it tough from there and is no value at the

## SPORTS BETTING

adds. The best bet lies in the other half of the draw where Parrott has a fairly straightforward task until being scheduled to run into Ronnie Sullivan - who is completely unreliable - and Stephen Hendry - who is eminently dependable nowadays - in the quarters and semis.

"Parrot played well enough when reaching the quarter-finals of the British Open recently and always raises his

game at the Crucible. At 12-1 (half the odds) to reach the final, he looks a decent wager."

Enough said.

Meanwhile, tomorrow, Arsenal and Manchester United must be a fair bet to fight out yet another draw in 90 minutes in their FA Cup semi-final replay. Newcastle are favourites to win the FA Cup outright simply by virtue of the fact they are already in the final.

Whoever wins tomorrow night will most certainly be the favourites at 1-2 to beat the Magpies at Wembley.

SNOOKER						
	C	H	L	S	T	
J Higgins	138	134	116	74	64	64
S Hendry	152	122	84	60	72	72
P Bevan	152	122	84	60	72	72
O Sullivan	81	117	21	81	81	81
D Nisbrey	101	141	121	141	111	111
J Perrett	161	21	251	21	201	201

TO WIN FA CUP						
	C	H	L	S	T	
Monticane	118	118	52	118	64	64
Wain Utd	21	138	118	118	74	74
Arnsdal	14	134	84	115	5	5

TOMORROW						
	C	H	L	S	T	
Wain Utd	64	118	64	118	111	111
Drum	21	21	95	21	21	21
Personal	138	74	85	74	74	74

C Coral, H WHIMOR HIL, L Ladbroke, S Stanley, T Tele-

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP	
Charlton v Leeds	.....
Coventry v Middlesbrough	.....
Liverpool v Aston Villa	.....
Manchester United v Sheffield Wed	.....
Newcastle v Everton	.....
Northingham Forest v Tottenham	.....
Saunders v Fulham	.....
West Ham v Derby	.....
Monday: Chelsea v Leicester. Monday: Arsenal v Wmfcledon	.....
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION	
Birmingham v Wolves	.....
Bolton v Ipswich	.....
Bradford City v Huddersfield	.....
Crewe v Watford	.....
Crystal Palace v Swindon	.....
Grimsby v Bury	.....
Northwich v Tranmere	.....
Port Vale v Oxford Utd	.....
Sheffield Utd v QPR	.....
Stockport v Bristol City	.....

<b>WEEKEND POOL</b>	
West Brom v Portsmouth.....X 3 Reading v Sunderland.....X 3	
<b>NATIONWIDE LEAGUE</b>	
<b>SECOND DIVISION</b>	
Bristol Rovers v Millwall.....Postponed	X
Exeter v Southend.....X	3
Chesham v Fulham.....X	3
Lillingham v Manchester City.....X	2
Gillingham v Lincoln City.....X	1
Preston v Blackpool.....X	1
Reading v Northampton.....X	1
Walsall v Macclesfield.....X	1
Wykeham v Oldham.....X	1
Doncaster v Wigan.....Postponed	X
York v Stockport.....X	1
Widze Colchester v Notts County.....X	1
<b>NATIONWIDE LEAGUE</b>	
<b>THIRD DIVISION</b>	
Barnet v Mansfield.....X	2
Brentford v Leyton Orient.....X	2
Darlington v Cambridge Utd.....X	1
Hatfield v Brighton.....X	1
Hartlepool v Scarborough.....X	1

## S FORECAST

15 Hull v Scunthorpe .....	2
17 Peterborough v Torquay .....	1
18 Plymouth v Southend .....	1
19 Rochdale v Chester .....	1
Not on cards: Rotherham v Carlisle	
Thrusbury v Exeter, Sunday: Cardiff v Wansle, .....	

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## BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

10 Aberdeen v Dundee Utd .....	1
11 Celtic v Motherwell .....	1
12 Dundee v Rangers .....	Postponed
13 Dunfermline v Raith Rovers .....	2
14 St Johnstone v Hearts .....	2
Sunday: Dundee v Rangers .....	

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## SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

15 Falkirk v Raith .....	1
16 Morton v Airdrie .....	1
17 Hamilton v Stranraer .....	1
18 Aberdeen v St Mirren .....	1
Sunday: Dumbarton v Clydebank .....	

**SCOTTISH LEAGUE  
SECOND DIVISION**

**K9 Arbroath** v Livingston  
K10 North Ayr v Alloa, East Fife  
K11 Partick Thistle v Queen of the South v Inverness  
K12 Stirling v Partick, Scottish League  
K13 Dundee v Aberdeen, Ross County  
K14 Stirling, Dumbarton v Brechin, Montrose v  
Stenhousemuir, Ross County v Queen's Park,  
Sundridge, Berwick v Cowdenburn

**THIRD DIVISION:** Manchester Utd v Sheffield  
United, Bradford City v Middlesbrough,  
Preston v Blackpool, Wolves v Macclesfield,  
Celtic v Motherwell, St. Johnstone v  
Greenock Morton  
K15 Aberdeen, Hamilton v Stranmillis, Motherwell  
St. Mirren.

**FIVE AWAYS:** Crewe v Watford, Barnet  
v Millwall, Darlington v Cambridge Utd  
Full City v Southampton, Dundee v Hartlepool.

**FOUR DRAMS:** Charlton v Leeds, Coventry  
v Middlesbrough, Southampton v  
Blackburn, West Ham v Derby

*Pools, foreign selections by Ian Davies*

## O'Brien elevated to top 16

**SNOOKER**

MERGAL O'BRIEN captured the first professional title of his career in Plymouth with victory over Anthony Hamilton in the British Open final.

O'Brien came from 2-0, 4-3 and later 7-6 down on Sunday night to win 9-7 as he picked up the trophy and a cheque for £60,000. The additional bonus for him is a place in the world top 16 rankings for the first time as the circuit prepares to move to the Sheffield for the Embassy World Championship, which starts on Saturday.

O'Brien knocked out the defending champion John Higgins in the last four and he followed that up with his historic win over Hamilton, who was also appearing in his first major final.

Hamilton, the world No 11 from Nottingham, did not displace himself; in fact, he repeatedly outscored O'Brien but the Dubliner held his nerve when it mattered as he became the third Republic of Ireland professional - after Ken Doherty and Patsy Fagan - to collect one of the game's major trophies.

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## 24/CRICKET

County Championship: Traditions are set to fall by the wayside as teams contest for a place in the new elite

## Ups and downs of quick-fix age

YOU HAVE to hand it to the England and Wales Cricket Board. The name revealed at last yesterday as the new sponsor of the County Championship could not have been more symbolic had it been planned all along. PPP Healthcare, suppliers of medical insurance, take Britannia Assurance's place. Given the poor state of the national summer game, it is an entirely appropriate choice.

The Championship, in fact, is already in its death throes, at least in its traditional format. From next season it will be contested in two divisions of nine teams each, which is why the campaign that begins today promises (for other reasons) not only to be more confusing than last year's but to be fought in an unprecedented climate of fear.

The change – the latest in a series meant somehow to improve the fortunes of the England team – is designed to produce a greater number of meaningful matches and by consequence, the theory goes, give the domestic game a better chance of turning out a test

BY JON CULLEY

match-ready players. What will actually happen is that more and more counties, especially those dreading a future in the second tier, will produce "result" pitches, on which mediocre bowlers will still prosper and decent batsmen will still be denied proper practice. But you cannot, I suppose, blame the ECB for trying.

The Board is, after all, in an unenviable position. Whatever anyone says, the Championship is still cricket's bedrock. It is the

true test of all teams and therefore the test of players, too. As a builder of character it should never be underestimated. Abroad, it remains a competition held in the highest regard, irrespective of England's failings on the international stage. Indeed, there are few international players of any standing, past or present, who have not played Championship cricket and gained hugely from it. Those who have not would relish the opportunity.

The trouble is that it has no audience, at least in terms of

bums on seats, and is therefore unsustainable on its own. Only through ECB handouts (drawn from the declining proceeds of the international game), the parallel existence of one-day knockabouts and the miracles performed by commercial offices does it survive. Yet without it there would be no game.

It needs and deserves support. No one who watched James Whitaker, a captain confined by injury to the wrong side of the fence, run on to the field at The Oval last September, overcome with joy as his Leicestershire team clinched the title, could doubt what it means to the players. If only the media at large could tune in to that and claw back a little of football's space and air-time then perhaps more sponsors would see its worth, too.

That said, the public will never come back in droves. In a quick-fix society there is no appetite for games that stretch beyond a day, no matter how cerebral. Hence a coming future list of extraordinary messiness that, even with one limited-overs competition taken



Lancashire take the field at Fenner's in the traditional season-opener against Cambridge University Keith Dobney

away, mixes a National League, a Benson and Hedges Super Cup and a NatWest Trophy and might in future include a version of the game boiled down to 25 overs a side to appeal to even shorter concentration spans.

But the Championship will still be the pinnacle, even though the World Cup and its

preliminaries will impinge for two months, robbing counties of top players. The consequences for 2000 will make it an intriguing contest, even when it dawns on counties that the split to two divisions need not be the nightmare they imagine. With three of each nine going up or down each season, most counties will

have a taste of each section and provided player movement is controlled – that is, with no Bosman-style challenge to throw it all into the air – playing in a second tier need not be critically disadvantageous. Something, however, must be done about pitches.

Among the contenders

expect to see Leicestershire (again), Warwickshire and Lancashire prominent, with Sussex and Glamorgan the liveliest outsiders. Above all, brace yourself for the long-awaited beating of chests in Yorkshire, winners last in 1988, whose momentum must surely get them there sooner or later.

## DERBYSHIRE

1998: BACC 10th; AXA 15th; B&H zonal rounds; NatWest runners-up  
Captain: Dominic Cork  
Coach: Nick Gifford  
Overseas player: Michael Slater (Aus)  
Beneficiary: None

Much will have to be done by those who remain to compensate for the going-on of the winter when it was decided that they could do without the services of Kim Barnett. That was tantamount to chucking away 1,000 runs, a vital contribution if Dominic Cork is to lead his crew into the top half of the Championship table. The acquisition of prolific Australian batsman Michael Slater should go a long way to making up for that – in the short and long games – but it would have been far more reassuring to have had the pair of them on the same side. More will be needed from Robin Weston, who showed he has what it takes to compile match-winning innings, and if Adrian Rollins can remain free of injury he should be good for a few runs. The seam bowling looks strong, Kevin Dean and Trevor Smith can shake the batsmen, providing ideal back-up for Phillip DeFreitas and Cork, who can rattle the stumps. It is to be hoped that Cork can pick up where he left off last season with bat and ball, although it is to his leadership and motivational qualities that the county will look.

Slater (New South Wales), Michael Dean, Anthony Wood, Stephen Titchard (Lancs).  
Overseas player: Michael Slater (Aus).  
Beneficiary: None.

## DURHAM

1998: BACC 14th; AXA 17th; B&H quarter-final; NatWest 2nd round.  
Captain: David Boon  
Coach: Nick Gifford  
Overseas player: Boon (Tasmania)  
Beneficiary: John Morris

Things are stirring at long last in the Championship's youngest county. Native North-easterners are beginning to come through, including the England Under-19 captain, Michael Gough, who looks perfectly capable of shouldering the mantle of opener despite his youth. David Boon will get runs, so too should Paul Collingwood. If he is not too distracted by the demands of his benefit season, John Morris could well add to the two Championship hundreds he scored towards the end of the season. It is Boon's last season and he would no doubt like to see a finish in the top half of the table; not such a far-fetched notion given the attack they possess. The speedster, John Wood, collected 61 Championship wickets last summer, and was ably backed up by Melvyn Betts – it is to be hoped he has recovered from the groin injury which cut short his England A tour.

Boon (Tasmania), Michael Gough (England), John Morris (Yorkshire), Steve Chapman (Berkshire), Stephen Titchard (Lancs), Stephen Luggden (Durham), Colin Campbell, David Cox, Steven Hutton, Mark Suggs, Jason Searle, Alan Walker (all released), Mike Roseberry (Middlesex).

## ESSEX

1998: BACC 18th; AXA 3rd; B&H Winners; NatWest 2nd round.  
Captain: Nasser Hussain  
Coach: Keith Fletcher  
Overseas player: Stuart Law (Aus)  
Beneficiary: Nasser Hussain

The belated World Cup call-up of Nasser Hussain leaves the county vice-captain, Ronnie Irani, to shoulder a fair old burden at the helm. Still at least they will have Stuart Law in a batting line-up that is crying out for runs from Paul Prichard, who last summer had an uncharacteristically lean time of it and it was probably not coincidental that Essex finished bottom of the Championship for only the second time in its history. Irani could be a busy man, since his all-round skills will be in demand. He will also be able to call upon the likes of Mark Ilett, Danny Law, Graham Napier, Jamie Grove and Ashley Cowan to provide the core of the attack. But runs are what is needed. No one reached 1,000 runs in the Championship last year for the first time since 1912. Prichard surely cannot have as bad a season again, but he needs Ian Flanagan and Stephen Peters to fulfil their potential. So too should Tim Hodgson, while Robert Rollins and Barry Hyatt need to add to the batting dimension of their wicketkeeping. They should compete well in the one-day stuff, but the Championship has to remain a priority.

Law (Western Province), Keith Newell (Sussex), Mark Wallace.  
Overseas player: Stuart Law (Aus).  
Beneficiary: Nasser Hussain.

## GLAMORGAN

1998: BACC 13th; AXA 10th; B&H zonal rounds; NatWest 2nd round.  
Captain: Matthew Maynard  
Coach: Duncan Fletcher  
Overseas player: Jacques Kallis (SA)  
Beneficiary: None

There is every chance that the final season of the 20th century will see Glamorgan pushing for honours in the Championship. For a start, Duncan Fletcher is back to direct coaching operations. The Zimbabwean master-minded their Championship-winning summer of '97. And again, England, it seems, are only interested in Robert Croft, leaving a core of seam bowlers and stroke-makers to do a lot better than they managed last year. When their overseas player Jacques Kallis joins them after the World Cup he may wonder why he is there. That captain Matthew Maynard failed to pass 1,000 runs in a season for only the second time in 13 summers can have been but a temporary glitch. Opener Steve James is the most prolific scorer around and in all first-class cricket he notched up 1,500 runs for the second successive season. Michael Powell, Wayne Law and Adrian Dale should be able to build on their form and Alan Evans Hyatt can be a bet for their maiden Championship hundreds. The attack will be led by Darren Thomas and Steve Watkins.

Kallis (Western Province), Keith Newell (Sussex), Mark Wallace.  
Overseas player: Jacques Kallis (SA).  
Beneficiary: None.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

1998: BACC 4th; AXA 6th; B&H zonal rounds; NatWest 2nd round.  
Captain: Mark Alleyne  
Coach: John Bracewell  
Overseas player: Ian Harvey (Australia)  
Beneficiary: Alleyne

There is a buzz of anticipation in the wake of the departure of Courtney Walsh. The Victorian batsman Ian Harvey has arrived on the heels of his reputation as a big hitter – he is credited with Australia's fastest one-day fifty, an innings of 26 balls. But it is the Championship which matters. Walsh's 1,065 wickets were a long way to lifting the county to fourth place. They will need even bigger contributions from Mike Smith and Jonathan Lewis, who managed 145 between them last year. Jeremy Snape will bolster a spin department, where previously Mark Taylor was the sole occupant. The batting, when it fired, did well, but there were still eight bonus-point blanks, albeit some due to the weather. Captain Alleyne was one of three to pass 1,000 runs in the Championship, along with Tim Hancock and Matt Windwards. The arrival of Kim Barnett should go a long way to guaranteeing runs, but Bobby Dewson, Robert Curran and Dominic Ross need to show more application. It is hard to see the county finishing out of the top six, but without Walsh they will have to work to better last summer.

Harvey (Victoria), Kim Barnett (Derby), Jeremy Snape (Northants), Mark Hardings.  
Overseas player: Ian Harvey (Australia).  
Beneficiary: Alleyne.

## HAMPSHIRE

1998: BACC 6th; AXA 8th; B&H zonal rounds; NatWest semi-final.  
Captain: Robin Smith  
Coach: Malcolm Marshall  
Overseas player: Nixon McLean (WI)  
Beneficiary: Kevan James

The attack went a long way to turning the county into a top-six side. Pity about the batting. No one reached four figures in the Championship, although the vastly improved Giles White did get his 1,000 for the summer and looked good value for his four first-class hundreds. John Stephenson began to emerge from the shadows and was looking more like his old self, captain Smith was not the reliable run-maker he has been in the past, but wicketkeeper Adrian Aymes, Dimitri Mascarenhas, Kevan James and, to a lesser extent, Shaun Udal, all produced key innings at critical moments and a lot more runs than might have been expected at the start of the season. All that is needed now is for everyone to go that much further and provide more batting points and bigger targets for the opposition to chase, then a top-three place would not be out of the question. The bowling, in contrast, was all effort. Nixon McLean was fantastic value for his 60-odd wickets, while Alex Morgan grew in confidence and was a model of consistency. Mascarenhas moved a step nearer becoming a genuine all-rounder.

White (Durham), Kevan James (Durham), Alex Morgan (Durham), Dimitri Mascarenhas (Durham), Shaun Udal (Durham), John Stephenson (Durham).  
Overseas player: Nixon McLean (WI).  
Beneficiary: Kevan James.

## KENT

1998: BACC 11th; AXA 5th; B&H quarter-final; NatWest 2nd round.  
Captain: John Crawley  
Coach: John Wright  
Overseas player: Andrew Symonds (Aus)  
Beneficiary: Trevor Ward

It will need more than a change in captaincy to turn around their fortunes. Fleming, having taken over from Steve Marsh, will have his work cut out on and off the pitch. Fleming has never tapped the deep well of talent that is his. Now he has to coerce and encourage the talented squad around him as well. They will be helped by the arrival of Andrew Symonds from Australia – the replacement for Carl Hooper. Symonds' big-hitting exploits should draw the crowds and even win matches. Ed Smith, Robert Key and Matthew Walker will well below what they are capable of last year, while Alan Wells and Trevor Ward failed to score a hundred. All of them need to provide the attack with runs to bowl at. Mark Eatham (World Cup) and almost certainly Dean Headley (Test), means Ben Phillips, Martin McCague, a fit-again Min Patel and Fleming have a much to do. One-day trophies will not be beyond them.

Smith (Queensland), Andrew Symonds (Aus), Robert Key (Durham), Matthew Walker (Durham), John Crawley (Sussex), Carl Hooper (Durham), Alan Wells (Durham), Trevor Ward (Durham), Dean Headley (Durham), Ben Phillips (Durham), Martin McCague (Durham), Min Patel (Durham).  
Overseas player: Andrew Symonds (Aus).  
Beneficiary: Trevor Ward.

## LANCASHIRE

1998: BACC 2nd; AXA Champions; B&H quarter-final; NatWest Winners  
Captain: John Crawley  
Coach: Day Whatmore  
Overseas player: Muttiah Muralitharan (S Lanka)  
Beneficiary: Warren Hegg

Arguably they have the best balanced attack in the country, now boosted by the signing of Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan and if he can escape the controversy that has surrounded his action, then we could be in for a treat. He misses a chunk at the start though, as does Neil Fairbrother, Andrew Flintoff and Ian Austin, because of the World Cup, but there is plenty of firepower in reserve, including four other spinners. The pace department contains high-quality operators in Peter Martin, Glenn Chapple, Flintoff and Austin, as well as Richard Green and Darren Shadford. Unquestionably they are the one-day kings. But they are equally well-equipped for the Championship. The batting, even given the anxiety over Michael Atherton's back problem, is also sound. New captain Crawley was in good form last summer, scoring twice as many runs as the next highest, Graham Lloyd. Nathan Wood fell a little behind expectations, but he, Flintoff and Mark Chilton are improving. Warren Hegg's selection to Test wicketkeeper was a reflection of his all-round qualities. A side hard to test with or without their international stars.

Overseas player: Muttiah Muralitharan (S Lanka).  
Beneficiary: Warren Hegg.

## LEICESTERSHIRE

1998: BACC Champions; AXA 4th; B&H runners-up; NatWest semi-final.  
Captain: James Whitaker  
Coach: Jack Birkenshaw  
Overseas player: Mike Kasproutz (Aus)  
Beneficiary: David Mills

It is hard to see them not retaining the title. Few sides could match their all-round abilities. They have made an astute signing in Queensland's Mike Kasproutz. Even without Alan Mullally and Vince Wells for the duration of the World Cup, there is plenty left to construct a solid foundation for their defence. Captain Whitaker is back and in good nick after a pre-season tour to Sri Lanka. He can expect runs from Ben Smith, Aftab Habib, Ian Sutcliffe, Darren Maddy – the list seems endless – Chris Lewis, Paul Nisbet, James Whitaker and David Mills has three first-class hundreds to his name. As awesome as the batting appears, the bowling lacks little. Slow left-arm Matthew Brimson was seventh in the Championship averages with a remarkable 26.12. Kasproutz should be good for 50 or 60 wickets at least (and he can bat a bit as well). They are also one of the better fielding sides and are going to take some beating. The heavy Benson and Hedges Cup final defeat was a temporary blot. This side is capable of winning the lot.

Kasproutz (Queensland), Neil Bostwell (Northants), Amer Khan (Sussex), Ashley Wright, Stephen Kirby, Darren Stevens.  
Overseas player: Mike Kasproutz (Aus).  
Beneficiary: David Mills.

## MIDDLESEX

1998: BACC 17th; AXA 12th; B&H quarter-final; NatWest quarter-final.  
Captain: Matthew Hayden  
Coach: Mike Gatting  
Overseas player: Justin Langer (Aus)  
Beneficiary: Phil Tufnell

There was madness in the methodology. And it did not work, so it is back to the good old ways. John Buchanan has returned to Australia with his video camera, library of tapes and data bank of every ball bowled by or against Middlesex. Into his shoes (to all-round relief) steps Mike Gatting. Whether he can restore their fortunes depends on much. The batting will have to muster more than the three sets of maximum batting points they managed last summer. Mike Roseberry is back after a few, it has to be said, unsuccessful years with Durham. He is likely to beef up the opening partnership, although he needs to rediscover the sort of form which saw him contribute to the Middlesex cause when they won the title in 1990 and 1993. Justin Langer will be back as well. The bowling looks thin. Angus Fraser can expect to be away for at least half the season on international duty, therefore Richard Johnson, Tim Bloomfield, Jamie Hewitt and Phil Tufnell need significant support from Ian Blanchett, Chris Batt and Paul Weekes.

Hayden (Queensland), David Almon (local dub), Mike Roseberry (Durham), David Almon (local dub), Chris Batt (Durham), Paul Weekes (Durham), Ian Blanchett (Durham), Justin Langer (Aus), Phil Tufnell (Durham).  
Overseas player: Justin Langer (Aus).  
Beneficiary: Phil Tufnell.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

1998: BACC 15th; AXA 13th; B&H zonal rounds; NatWest first round.  
Captain: Jason Gallen  
Coach: Bob Carter  
Overseas player: Hayden (Australia)  
Beneficiary: Kevin Curran

Another county with an overseas player as captain, and Matthew Hayden looks a useful signing. There is certainly enough young talent to provide for the future. Two of the most exciting prospects are England Under-19 off-spinning all-rounder Graeme Swann and international colleague Richard Logan, also an all-rounder. And when he returns from World Cup duty with Scotland big things are expected of fast bowler John Blain. There is also off-spinner Jason Brown and, of course, England fast bowler Devon Malcolm and his strike partner Paul Taylor as well as slow left-arm Michael Davies. The batting was the problem. Again not enough first-innings effort from the upper and middle order to acquire the all-important bonus points. Hayden should not be a worry, not if his form is anything like it was when he doing his blonk to ambition and perhaps even morale, but there is a feeling that when one of the team comes good they all will. Like many lowly placed counties it was flabby batting and a lack of first-innings application which hit them hard. Four times they failed to score even one batting bonus point, which meant that the attack was the only consistent source of points as they notched up maximums in 12 of their 17 games. Even accounting for the weather this was not the stuff of which champions are made. But the personnel and talent is there. Even without their two heaviest run-scorers the county still boasts a further eight batsmen who have scored first-class centuries. Now they have added Paul Pollard from Nottinghamshire. The stand-in captain Steven Rhodes will need Vikram Solanki to show what a fine talent he is and for Philip Weston to turn his 50s into hundreds, then the attack will have something to work with.

Hayden (Queensland), Jason Gallen (local dub), Richard Logan (Durham), Devon Malcolm (Durham), Michael Davies (Durham), Paul Taylor (Durham), Jason Brown (Durham), John Blain (Durham).  
Overseas player: Hayden (Australia).  
Beneficiary: Kevin Curran.

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

1998: BACC 16th; AXA 11th; B&H zonal rounds; NatWest quarter-final.  
Captain: Jason Gallen  
Coach: Steve Rice  
Overseas player: Vaseb Drakes (WI)  
Beneficiary: Mike Newell

They scatter rice for luck at weddings. But the tossing of Clive Rice into the role of director of cricket is not guaranteed to have a similar effect at Trent Bridge. Rice led the county to success in the 1980s; now they will be happy if he can just get them into the top half of the Championship. Last summer, however, his influence was placed upon the elders. Paul Johnson and Tim Robinson, Graeme Archer, Usman Afzaal and Gallen passed the 500-mark in the Championship, but to regain the top flight they need to reach four figures. Chris Read looks capable of becoming a serious wicketkeeper-batsman all-rounder. Noel, Gie, Matthew Downman and Guy Welton still have it all to do. The bowling department will be borne by Vaseb Drakes, the former West Indies Test bowler. He can rely on valuable support from Paul Franks, Chris Tolley, and Kevin Evans, but Alex Wharf and Mark Bowen also provide competition for places in the attack. They will need to because Andy Oram misses the first couple of months with a stress fracture of the back.

Drakes (Barbados), Richard Stamp (Yorks), David Lucas, Stephen Randall, Matthew Whalley.  
Overseas player: Vaseb Drakes (WI).  
Beneficiary: Mike Newell.

## SOMERSET

1998: BACC 9th; AXA 14th; B&H zonal rounds; NatWest second round.  
Captain: Jamie Cox  
Coach: Dermot Reeve  
Overseas player: Cox (Australia)  
Beneficiary: Andy Caddick

Jamie Cox has been handed a tall order: Lead the side from the front – he will open the innings – in your first season in England. So the Tasmanian has to adapt immediately to the whimsical weather of the Northern Hemisphere, while motivating the side. At least there were signs last summer that the likes of Mark Lathwell and Marcus Trescothick were emerging from the rut into which they had slipped for so long. If Peter Bowler, free of the captaincy, is also clear of his back injury and can score the big innings of which he is perfectly capable, that should go a long way to setting up the rest of the batting order. There is not a lot wrong with the attack. Andy Caddick's 105 Championship wickets may not have made much of an impression on the England selectors, but his victims know that he is able to repeat the feat. If he gets the support which Matthew Bulbeck's few appearances promised and if Graham Rose, who did the all-rounder's double of 500 runs and 50 wickets for the second season running, fires again, then much is possible.

Cox (Tasmania), Paul Jarvis (Sussex).  
Overseas player: Jamie Cox (Australia).  
Beneficiary: Andy Caddick.

## SURREY

1998: BACC 5th; AXA 18th; B&H semi-final; NatWest quarter-final.  
Captain: Adam Hoolioake  
Coach: Keith Medleycott  
Overseas player: Undecided  
Beneficiary: Darren Bicknell

Mark Butcher captains the side until Adam Hoolioake's return from World Cup duty, which also involves Graham Thorpe and Alec Stewart. They can expect to lose Stewart, Thorpe, Butcher and almost certainly Alex Tudor for the Tests. It leaves the onus on the rest of the squad to repeat the magnificent efforts of last summer, to keep the Championship pot boiling and get them out of the National League's Second Division. At least opener Darren Bicknell returns after a back injury. Brown and Alistair Brown are safe bets to reach 1,000 runs. Whoever Surrey bring in as overseas player – Stuart MacGill or Saqlain Mushtaq – he will make an impact, but so will Rupesh Amin. The slow left-arm has spent the winter under the tutelage of the former India Test player Bishan Bedi. Alex Tudor gets better with bat and even quicker with ball. Darren Bicknell will be good for wickets at next to nothing. It needs Ben Hoolioake to start firing again, Ian Salisbury to rediscover his confidence and for Jason Ratcliffe, Nadeem Shahid and Ian Ward to do their stuff and they could be pushing for the top.

Overseas player: Undecided.  
Beneficiary: Darren Bicknell.

## SUSSEX

1998: BACC 7th; AXA 16th; B&H zonal rounds; NatWest first round.  
Captain: Chris Adams  
Coach: Peter Moores  
Overseas player: Michael di Venuto (Aus)  
Beneficiary: Neil Lennham

Chris Adams adds a hard edge with his leadership and a refined blunt instrument with his bat. Michael di Venuto replaces Michael Benson and much is expected of the Tasmanian. Robin Martin-Jenkins has graduated from Durham and is ready to begin full-time cricket education. He showed enough talent with bat and ball to suggest that he is a serious all-round prospect. The acquisition of Tony Cottrey is another bonus. His experience and ability will be vital in both forms of the game. He and di Venuto, along with another handy opener, Richard Montgomerie, should beef up the batting and if Tony Peirce, Rajesh Rao and Wasim Khan carry on the good work, runs should be in plentiful supply. Wicketkeeper Shaun Humphries needs a few more runs and perhaps a few more victims. The attack needs Jason Lawry and James Kirtley to stay injury free, they can then count on Martin-Jenkins and Mark Robinson for some zippy back-up. If it all goes to plan, they could again figure in the upper echelons.

Overseas player: Michael di Venuto (Aus).  
Beneficiary: Neil Lennham.

## WARWICKSHIRE

1998: BACC 8th; AXA 2nd; B&H zonal rounds; NatWest quarter-final.  
Captain: Neil Smith  
Coach: Phil Neale  
Overseas player: Allan Donald (SA)  
Beneficiary: Donald

They have promised to not overwork him but when Allan Donald returns from World Cup duty he will certainly add a ruthless, cutting edge to the attack. Not that Ed Giddins, Dougie Brown, Tim Munton and Graeme Welch did not do a good job last summer, they only missed out on maximum bowling points on three occasions, a staggering record. But Donald adds another dimension – fear. That should allow the rest of the attack some easy pickings as batsmen rush lemming-like to the other end. Ashley Giles and the new captain, Neil Smith, can be counted on for at least 50 wickets with their spin. Brown, of course, has another string and the batting could do with even more than the 650-odd runs he compiled. Nick Knight was one of only two (the other was Brian Lara) to pass 1,000 runs in the Championship, although Smith did get close. There are high hopes of Michael Powell, Mark Wagh and David Hemp as well as Trevor Penney. Dominic Ostler misses the start with a chipped ankle but, if he recovers his form, it will add depth to the batting.

Overseas player: Allan Donald (SA).  
Beneficiary: Donald.

## WORCESTERSHIRE

1998: BACC 12th; AXA 7th; B&H zonal rounds; NatWest first round.  
Captain: Tom Moody (Aus)  
Coach: Bill Athey  
Overseas player: Moody  
Beneficiary: Graeme Hick

There is no doubt that the unexpected loss of Tom Moody to Australia's World Cup cause as well as Graeme Hick's to England for the same reason is a double blow to ambition and perhaps even morale, but there is a feeling that when one of the team comes good they all will. Like many lowly placed counties it was flabby batting and a lack of first-innings application which hit them hard. Four times they failed to score even one batting bonus point, which meant that the attack was the only consistent source of points as they notched up maximums in 12 of their 17 games. Even accounting for the weather this was not the stuff of which champions are made. But the personnel and talent is there. Even without their two heaviest run-scorers the county still boasts a further eight batsmen who have scored first-class centuries. Now they have added Paul Pollard from Nottinghamshire. The stand-in captain Steven Rhodes will need Vikram Solanki to show what a fine talent he is and for Philip Weston to turn his 50s into hundreds, then the attack will have something to work with.

Overseas player: Tom Moody (Aus).  
Beneficiary: Graeme Hick.

## YORKSHIRE

1998: BACC 3rd; AXA 9th; B&H semi-final; NatWest 2nd round.  
Captain: David Briggs  
Coach: Martyn Moxall  
Overseas player: Greg Blewett (Aus)  
Beneficiary: None

Even without Darren Gough and Gavin Hamilton, on World Cup duty for England and Scotland respectively, they are equipped to mount a serious challenge. Greg Blewett is no bad replacement for Darren Lehmann. Matthew Wood missed out on his Championship 1,000 by nine runs as he finished the summer with a spectacular flourish, hitting two unbeaten centuries, one a double hundred, while Michael Vaughan, who got his 1,000, also captained the unbeaten England A team. The signing of Richard Haden adds stability to the middle order. The injury to Paul Hutchison and Gough's expected England duties may weaken the attack, but if Matthew Hodgwood gets going early on and Chris Silverwood is fit, then the likes of Craig White, James Middlebrook and Ryan Sidebottom can still complete a very serviceable attack.

Overseas player: Greg Blewett (Aus).  
Beneficiary: None.

CLUB PROFILES BY DAVID LLEWELLYN



# Renaissance clubs ready for leap forward

PETER REID and Kevin Keegan never tangled in Merseyside derbies, were only briefly managerial rivals in the North-east and are not, strictly speaking, in competition now. But as Sunderland and Fulham put the champagne on ice for possible celebrations tonight - when the first promotion and relegation issues could be resolved - the pair with the steely competitive streak and hair to match are vying for a place in the record books.

Since the Football League adopted three points for a win in 1981, only York, amassing 101 points in 1983-84, and Swindon, who went one better in 1985-86, have compiled a century. Beginning at relegation-threatened Bury this evening, Reid's Sunderland side need 11 points from five First Division fixtures to establish a new landmark.

Sunderland, revitalised by moving to a new stadium, and Fulham, thriving on an influx of new money, could clinch promotion tonight. By Phil Shaw

Reid and Keegan, who each endured bitter anticlimax in the play-offs last May, the night promises a moment to savour before planning for life at a higher level.

Therein lies the rub. To some clubs, promotion is an end in itself. Barnsley's elevation to the Premiership, followed the next spring by demolition, offers a classic example. Sunderland and Fulham, though separated by a chasm in the size of their respective followings, are twinned by the extent to which they have sent expectations soaring.

In Sunderland's case the catalyst has been a change of home, from Roker Park to the Stadium of Light, which will surely house 40,000 and more at every Premiership match. The grey area concerns Sunderland's ability to survive longer than one season (which they failed to do after two previous promotions in the 1990s), and to match neighbouring Newcastle by maintaining their momentum among the elite.

To that, Reid may not only have to be ruthless in dispensing with some who have served

and can hardly fail to improve upon the four goals that made Paul Stewart and Craig Russell joint top scorers in 1996-97.

If Sunderland are kept waiting tonight, they have another opportunity at Barnsley on Friday. Whenever it happens, their outstanding home fixtures, against Sheffield United and Birmingham, are certain to be played in a carnival atmosphere.

Craven Cottage, as cosy and scenic as the Stadium of Light is brash and modern, has staged few enough parties down the decades. Gillingham's urgent need for points will ensure a fierce contest, yet with three more home games to come, Fulham and the faithful (now reputedly including Pope John Paul II and Michael Jackson) can afford to be patient.

The impetus for their long-overdue renaissance has, of course, come from the chequebook of Mohamed Al Fayed. Eyebrows were raised when Chris Coleman became the first £2m player in the history of the English game's third grade, but the restlessness that characterises Keegan and the Harrod's owner suggests that Fulham are in for a summer of unsentimental squad-pruning and even greater investment.

Early in his reign, the "chief operating officer" was informed by a fan that million-pound players were not welcome. Tonight, when the attendance should approach the 20,000 mark Keegan sought as proof that Fulham could generate passion, dissenters will be like the paying customers were before he and Al Fayed came together: few and far between.

# Yellow card count could cost Everton

BY ALAN NIXON

for his second booking in Sunday's Premiership game.

Everton's Nick Barmby and Scott Gemmill will miss the game at Chelsea on 1 May after collecting their fifth bookings, although most of Gemmill's were picked up with Nottingham Forest.

The FA has given clubs the chance to resolve their own difficulties. Arsenal were threatened with a £50,000 fine at the end of the 1996-97 season but escaped punishment as their record improved. Middlesbrough have collected the heaviest penalty to date. A £25,000 suspended fine from the end of the 1995-96 campaign was activated when they re-offended the following season.

Chris Sutton may have kicked his last ball this season to deal struggling Blackburn's survival hopes a severe blow. The Rovers striker has been told to rest a groin injury to avoid the need for a hernia operation and it seems unlikely he will be able to play any further part in the relegation battle.

Brighton and Hove Albion yesterday confirmed the appointment of the former Fulham, Swansea and Brentford manager Micky Adams as their new manager. Adams, 37, becomes the Seagulls' seventh manager in the past five years.

He replaces Jeff Wood, who was sacked last Friday, and has signed a four-year contract.

Adams, who steered Fulham to promotion from the Third Division two seasons ago, moves from Nottingham Forest, where he was reserve-team manager. His first game in charge will be against Shrewsbury at Brighton's temporary Gillingham home tonight.

Crystal Palace yesterday suffered another setback with the news that their sponsor, TDK, will end its contract with the club. TDK, the manufacturer of video and audio tapes, have backed the Eagles for six years, but will not be renewing the company's support at the end of this season.

The Loughborough official Peter Jones has been appointed the referee for the last FA Cup final of the 20th century, between Newcastle United and Arsenal. It will be the second major final that the 44-year-old Jones has officiated in at the national stadium within the past 12 months. He was in charge of the 1998 Coca-Cola Cup final between Chelsea and Middlesbrough.

The Manchester United full-back Denis Irwin will miss tomorrow's replay after he suffered a leg injury in Sunday's 0-0 draw. Phil Neville performed admirably when he came on for the Irishman and is expected to keep his place. The United manager, Alex Ferguson, admits he is contemplating other changes. "I could possibly make one or two changes," he said. "But Denis is the only one who is injured."



Members of the Brazilian Under-20 team celebrate one of their five goals against Zambia in a World Youth Championship tie at Port Harcourt, Nigeria on Sunday. Brazil meet Croatia in the second round tomorrow AP

# Uefa has Balkan verdict on hold

UEFA, EUROPEAN football's ruling body, has refused to dismiss the possibilities of reallocation places in their major club competitions for next season because of the Balkans crisis.

League football in Yugoslavia has been suspended, and there are major problems playing club matches in Macedonia, Albania, Croatia and Bosnia. The problems led to the West Ham manager, Harry Redknapp, suggesting at the weekend that other countries could be given extra places in the UEFA Cup if the Yugoslav war stops Balkan countries completing their fixtures.

That could mean countries such as England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain being given more qualification places. A UEFA spokesman said yesterday: "We don't want to speculate on the issue at the moment, all sorts of things could change, you can't tell what will happen."

Redknapp has a vested interest in the situation because, even if West Ham finish fifth this season they will not win a European spot. The same applies to Aston Villa, who are fifth, one place ahead of the Hammers. Both clubs have applied to compete in the Intertoto Cup this summer.

Although UEFA is unwilling to discuss the problems, the draws for the Intertoto, UEFA Cup and Champions' League preliminary rounds take place in mid-summer and there is a possibility that the conflict in Yugoslavia could still be going on. Then a decision over the format of next season's European club competitions will have to be taken.

The former England midfielder Trevor Brooking was yesterday appointed as chairman of the English Sports Council. Brooking, a CBE, has been acting chairman since Sir Rodney Walker left the council in July last year to become chairman of the UK Sports Council.

# Nations Cup may return to Windsor

AFTER NINE months of work and an outlay in excess of £15,000, the Royal Windsor Horse Show should have overcome its perennial problems with underfoot conditions in the Castle Arena, writes Genevieve Murphy.

The ground will have been scarified, mole-drained, reseeded with tougher grass and levelled by the time the 57th show begins its four-day run on 13 May. These efforts may well be rewarded with a return of the Nations Cup, which was held at Windsor in 1997 before going back to Hickstead for two years.

Around 3,200 horses will be competing in various classes, and the inclusion of an International Championship Team Trial will ensure the participation of all the leading British riders. This year the results of the first two trials at Windsor and the Suffolk County Show in July, where the third and final trial takes place. The top three on overall points will be included on the British squad for the European Championships to be held at Hick-

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# Boxing

Joe Bugner yesterday relinquished his World Boxing Federation heavyweight title and claimed he would not defend it again.

# Cricket

England's first-class cricket season is set to begin with a match between Lancashire and Yorkshire at Old Trafford on Saturday.

# Rugby

The British and Irish Lions will depart for South Africa on Saturday for their tour of the country.

# Golf

The 108th Open Championship will be held at Royal St Andrews on 14-17 June.

# Snooker

The 1999 World Snooker Championship will be held at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield from April 13 to May 1.

# Speedway

The 1999 British Speedway season will begin on Saturday at the White City Stadium in London.

# Tennis

The 1999 Wimbledon Championships will be held from 22 June to 7 July at the All England Lawn Tennis Club.

# Other Sports

The 1999 Commonwealth Games will be held in Manchester from 22 July to 7 August.

## TODAY'S NUMBER

### 45,000

The number of marks (£16,000) Dietrich Hanneemann, the former chief of the state-run East German Sports Medicine Service, was fined yesterday in Berlin, after he was convicted of being an accessory to causing bodily harm in 109 cases of systematic doping of athletes. It is the highest fine yet in a series of similar trials.







# TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY

## Are you a regular guy?

William Hague is to be reinvented as an ordinary bloke by his new spin doctor Amanda Platell. Does he have what it takes to become one of the people? Do you? Test your man-in-the-street cred in our exclusive questionnaire

Coaches target World success

RUGBY UNION  
BY DAVID LLEWELYN

THE ENGLAND coach, Chris Woodward, yesterday thrust aside his disappointment at the defeat by Wales, which cost him a Grand Slam, and looked ahead to the World Cup. "England are in good shape," he said. "I believe we are right up there with the top side in the world. And I have no doubt that England will be a threat for the World Cup." And he predicted the southern hemisphere sides will be in for a tough challenge. "Every one of the Five Nations has got faster, fitter and more powerful," Woodward said. "I have also moved forward. The southern hemisphere teams are more used to a World Cup. There is no way they are going to be an easy ride."

The day went on Woodward's press conference in England's capital. Woodward said the team was "in good shape" and "right up there with the top side in the world." He also predicted the southern hemisphere sides will be in for a tough challenge. "Every one of the Five Nations has got faster, fitter and more powerful," Woodward said. "I have also moved forward. The southern hemisphere teams are more used to a World Cup. There is no way they are going to be an easy ride."

Woodward, who played in the 1970s, said the team was "in good shape" and "right up there with the top side in the world." He also predicted the southern hemisphere sides will be in for a tough challenge. "Every one of the Five Nations has got faster, fitter and more powerful," Woodward said. "I have also moved forward. The southern hemisphere teams are more used to a World Cup. There is no way they are going to be an easy ride."

**Places**  
When you hear the word "Sheffield", do you immediately think of:  
a) Wednesday?  
b) Your canteen of hallmarked fish cutlery?  
c) "Six seats, five Labour, one Lib Dem, ie Sheffield Hallam, present incumbent Richard Allan, 8271 majority last election, possible marginal for 2001?"

**Music**  
As far as you know, Catatonia is:  
a) a Welsh rock band with a rather splendid girl singer;  
b) a form of schizophrenia involving seizure, trance, loss of consciousness and rigidity of the body;  
c) an entirely familiar state that follows a select committee report on Euro number plates.

**Meeting people (1)**  
At a fundraising dinner, you are introduced to someone called Patel. Do you say:  
a) "I'm delighted to meet one of the new breed of Asian entrepreneurs who are injecting so much vital new blood into the British economy?"  
b) "Forty Marlboro Lights and one of those throwaway lighters, please?"  
c) "Are you related to my new Director of Communications?"

**Meeting people (2)**  
You are in a nasty pub. The landlord is covered in tattoos. The bar is covered in broken glass. The darts players are throwing arrows at each other. Someone has taken a sledgehammer to the juke box. Suddenly, a drunk lurches to his feet, comes over, sticks his face uncomfortably close to yours and says, "What you looking at?". Would you reply:  
a) "I've no idea. The label must have dropped off?"  
b) "Put your dukes up, you steaming pile of ordure?"

**Picture Question**  
You harbour a secret passion for the mediababe of the moment. Is she...  
a) Denise Van Outen  
b) Anthea Turner  
c) Amanda Platell



**Food**  
After an evening's drinking and discussing football, cars and Eva Herzigova with your mates, you feel like a little snack. Do you most fancy:  
a) a doner kebab?  
b) a dozen No 1 oysters at Wheeler's of Duke St?  
c) a peanut butter sandwich? Oh, and some custard creams as well.

**Leisure**  
With which leisure pursuit is the word "rubber" associated:  
a) Bungee jumping?  
b) Bridge?  
c) Eating chicken?

**Television**  
What is the biggest EastEnders crisis currently under discussion:  
a) Whether Melanie should have let her flatmate Ian snog her, when she obviously isn't That Kind of Girl?  
b) Why all the cast are leaving to pursue abortive singing careers?  
c) Whether a new mayor will hold executive, or merely advisory, powers over the infrastructural budgets in the more problematic, outlying wards of the metropolis?

**Art**  
If someone asks you, "What did you think of the Pollocks?", do you reply:  
a) "Is that what we had for lunch? I assumed it was cod..."  
b) "Stunning, apocalyptic, marvellous. His use of paint is, in a very real sense, beyond painting..."  
c) "I'm sorry, I rarely listen to anything Kenneth Clarke says these days?"

**Drink**  
How do regular guys order a pint of bitter in a pub:  
a) "Pint of Abbot please. Straight glass?"  
b) "Come landlord, set me a stoup of your finest Theakston's Hand-Pulled Olde Farte, that I may quaff my fill?"  
c) "Can I have some beer please? No I haven't got my identity card. Oh all right, just some Tizer then?"

**Cars**  
Which of the following statements is most representative of you:  
a) "I drive a Ford Mondeo because I am a regular kinda guy, neither too flash nor too conservative?"  
b) "I drive a Mitsubishi Shogun because I like to be at least a foot higher than anybody else on the road?"  
c) "I drive a Fiat because it helps me remember my wife's first name?"

**Home**  
What does the phrase "Kitchen-table conservatism" mean to you? Is it:  
a) a forum, at once convivial and domestic, where important political issues can be debated at a grass-roots level in language that all can understand, without spin, bias or party rhetoric?  
b) a sort of lower-class dinner party where people complain that the rubbish collectors in their street seem to be working rather awkward hours?  
c) a place where you tell your wife how you plan to stay in power for the rest of the week?

**Vacations**  
You are due a holiday in August. Will you plump for:  
a) two weeks in Ibiza, with lots of para-gliding, jet-skiing, and dozens of tequila slammers on the beach?  
b) a month at Floors Castle, Scotland, tramping the moors with the Duke and Duchess and one or two good beaters?  
c) a motoring tour of 19th-century electoral registers in the North Riding of Yorkshire?

**Books**  
You have retired to bed with a 48-hour virus and been ordered to do no work, though a little light comfort reading is allowed. Would you turn to:  
a) What Ho, Jeeves by PG Wodehouse?  
b) Fermat's Last Theorem by Simon Singh  
c) The Collected Works of Walter Bagehot (Vols 1-8) edited by NAF St John-Stevens?

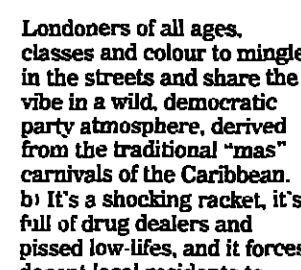
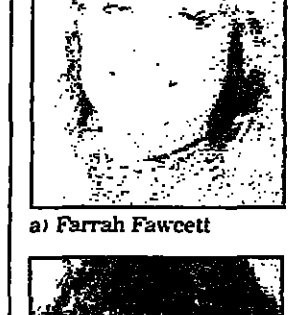
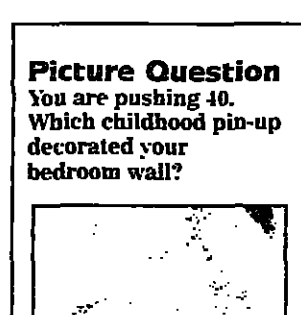
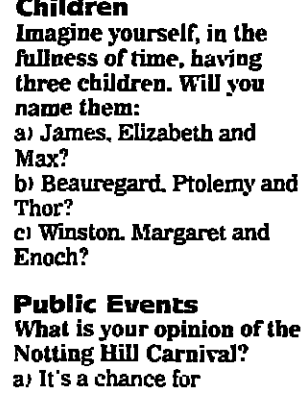
**Children**  
Imagine yourself, in the fullness of time, having three children. Will you name them:  
a) James, Elizabeth and Max?  
b) Beauregard, Ptolemy and Thor?  
c) Winston, Margaret and Enoch?

**Public Events**  
What is your opinion of the Notting Hill Carnival?  
a) It's a chance for Londoners of all ages, classes and colour to mingle in the streets and share the vibe in a wild, democratic party atmosphere, derived from the traditional "mas" carnivals of the Caribbean.  
b) It's a shocking racket, it's full of drug dealers and pissed low-lives, and it forces decent local residents to relocate to Madeira for three days.  
c) An amusing occasion, but one that in no way eclipses the excitement of the Oswestry Young Conservatives' Charity Hop in the summer of 1985, with music by the Squadronaires.

**Picture Question**  
You are pushing 40. Which childhood pin-up decorated your bedroom wall?  
a) Farrah Fawcett  
b) Sally James  
c) Margaret Thatcher



**Picture Question**  
Who is your current sporting hero?  
a) Prince Naseem Hamed  
b) David Ginola  
c) Sebastian Coe



**How did you score?**  
Mostly a) You seem a decent sort of chap, right-thinking, straight-dealing, sussed and modern. Ever thought of going into politics?  
Mostly b) You have some way to go if you want to be considered truly ordinary. Bit of attitude-striking here, bit of elitism and pretension there. I'm afraid that neither of the major parties would want you.  
Mostly c) Congratulations. You're William Hague.



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MEDIA



## GM crops 'bias'

Sir: Michael Meacher's intention to replace retiring members of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (Acres) with more "pro-green" members (report, 12 April) and to bar scientists with current or recent links to the biotechnology industry from membership of this committee raises important questions.

Why does Mr Meacher not apply the same test of bias to members of environmental organisations, many of whom have expressed uncompromising opposition to GM foods, as he does to biotechnologists? Is there not a danger that in his zeal to remove all taint of special pleading from the biotechnology industry from Acres, the resulting committee will be not only intrinsically anti-GM foods but anti-science as well? What sort of an advisory committee would that be?

Professor Beringer's point about the difficulty of finding scientists who do not have some links with industry is well made. The policies of the previous government with regard to funding or, more correctly, withdrawal of funding from, academic research and the privatisation of government research establishments have made it extremely difficult to find any scientists who can satisfy the "independence criteria" laid down by the environmental lobby. The present government has made some progress in redressing this situation but the problem still remains, and will do for years to come.

Finally, Mr Meacher's assumptions of ethical slipperiness and a lack of independent thought among biotechnologists are extremely offensive to the many practising scientists who attempt to maintain objectivity in an increasingly subjective world.  
ROBERTA NICHOLS  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire

Sir: I have just driven down the A1 for 100 miles and have enjoyed the bright spring flowers which decorate the verges most of the way. These are nearly all bright yellow, and can be identified as oilseed rape. These flowers were never planted there, but found their way there, borne on the wind or by birds. Can anyone really believe that GM plants won't be carpeting the verges in a few years' time?  
GABRIELLE MAUGHAN  
Morcott, Rutland

## Voices of Serbia

Sir: Anthony Arblaster (letter, 10 April) asks if the Serbs in Britain, protesting against the Nato bombing, understand why their country is being attacked, and if they condemn the atrocities committed in Kosovo.

Here in Belgrade, each cry against the bombing is, unfortunately, scored by the regime as a voice of approval of its policy on Kosovo. But one should never equate these two things.

We are aware of the crimes committed in Kosovo, but we know that Milosevic has no ear for our voices. The bombing is good for him only because it helps him to strengthen his regime. Nato refuses to recognise this, and continues the fruitless campaign that provokes only the suffering of innocent people in Serbia, without helping the Albanians in Kosovo.

I agree that the parallel with the Germans and the Second World War is striking. Hitler misled the German nation, turning it against the world and into the Holocaust. Milosevic does much the same with the Serbs. Neither the German nation, nor the Serbs, should be seen as genocidal by nature; they have only been unlucky to spend a part of their histories under the dictatorship of ruthless people.  
DRAGAN MARKOVIC  
Belgrade

Sir: My visit to the Serbs demonstrating in Whitehall last week produced an entirely

different picture from that reported by Kevin Greenan (letter, 9 April).

I met not one who was "pro-Milosevic". What I did discover was people who are concerned that the current situation has pulled disparate parties behind Milosevic - a polarisation of views which appears dangerously to be happening here.  
CAROLINE BUCKNALL  
London N4

Sir: The First World War, the war no great power wanted, stood as the classic negation of diplomatic foresight and strategic thought: no clear goal, no calculation of the sacrifices the goal was worth; no "exit strategy"; no fall-back-lesser-good option should the "fog of war" lead to reverses and cost-escalation.

Now the century ends with another negation of the most fundamental tenets of diplomacy and strategy. Another war that could and should have been averted. There were innumerable compromise permutations acceptable to the majority of Serbs as well as the majority of Kosovars, offered by conflict specialists intimately familiar with Kosovo (by the Swedish Peace and Conflict Centre in Lund, by this author and others). They were ignored, as Madeleine Albright, supported by President Clinton and Tony Blair, disregarded diplomatic channels in favour of take-it-or-leave-it ultimatums.

Another war escalating beyond any cost-calculation warranted by its perceived or stated purpose. Weekly killings by the Kosovo Liberation Army and Serb paramilitaries had been in single or low double figures. Sparking the very scale of humanitarian catastrophe it was supposed to avert. Nato now embraced this disaster of its own making as justification for further blind escalation, still with no clear end goal.

Another propaganda war. Opponent demonisation is a dumbing down of foreign policy. In this case it appeared oblivious of

the visceral Serb attachment to Kosovo, their Alamo, and oblivious of the fact that on the issue of its retention democrats and neo-fascists alike closed ranks with Milosevic.

Karl von Clausewitz, the "father" of modern strategy, feared nothing more than war's inherent escalatory logic. That is why he insisted on political control and clear strategic reason. Today, the rising clamour for land troops in terrain ill-fitted for protracted struggle, against a foe trained to perpetuate it, graphically illustrates the former; the latter remains wondrously absent. Clausewitz would turn in his grave. Professor CARL G. JACOBSEN  
Department of Political Science  
Carleton University  
Ottawa, Canada

Sir: Your report (10 April) the Nato military spokesman, firstly, retracting his "absolute assurance" that Nato certainly had not caused the absolute and widespread damage he believed to have been orchestrated by Serb forces, then, secondly, explaining away damage to a residential area

Sir: Your comparison between teachers, journalists and lawyers (leading article, 7 April) is misguided. The latter professions are inherently competitive, not to say adversarial: the first is, or should be, co-operative and collegiate. Awarding a few "star" teachers performance-related pay will under the bonds that forge a school staff into a team, to the detriment of all our children.  
DERWYN WILLIAMS  
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Sir: Lance Green (letter, 8 April) confuses the cause of road accidents with the outcome. It is true that speed may not always be a factor in causing an accident. However, an accident

as the "seduction" of a bomb away from its target. Then, you report Nato's civilian spokesman describing Nato's jet engines as "the sound of angels".

I do hope that these are not the same people behind the headline on the same day "Nato dismisses Yeltsin's threats".  
FIT LI MARTIN RUBENSTEIN  
RAF Cosford  
Wolverhampton

Sir: In a global context there is hope in the Kosovo maelstrom: the first Nato military action has been on behalf of the rights of Muslims.  
JOHN D ANDERSON  
Baldon, West Yorkshire

Sir: Money is on tap for bombs. For food and medicine, out comes the begging bowl. Why? Why not the other way round?  
GEORGE DELF  
Durham

Sir: Thank goodness that when America sought our assistance in their invasion of Vietnam, we had as Prime Minister Harold Wilson and not Tony Blair.  
J R BRISBOURN  
Dorking, Surrey

## IN BRIEF

which involves vehicles travelling at high speeds is more likely to result in serious injury or death, whatever the cause. The statistics are frightening: approximately one in ten pedestrians survive being hit by a car at 40mph, compared with half at 30mph and nine in ten at 20mph.  
DR MARK DOUGHERTY  
School of Transportation and Society  
Borlänge, Sweden

Sir: Your reviewer of "Dead Kid Walking" (Documentary of the Day, 10 April) is wrong in asserting that Sean Sellers became the first person in 40

## Drug testing

Sir: As the senior probation officer responsible for the operation of the Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) pilot project in Liverpool, I am amazed at the article "Straw sex and drugs policies ignored" (2 April).

I am aware that each of the pilot schemes is different, but in Liverpool of the 28 individuals assessed for the DTTO who have been sentenced to date, 16 have been placed on the order, five received immediate prison sentences due to the seriousness of their offences, two refused to take part and the remainder were assessed as unsuitable for the DTTO but proposed for other community sentences.

The DTTO is demanding: it is not suitable for every drug user and some individuals fail to comply with the order. In both respects it is similar to other community penalties currently operated by the Probation Service. I cannot answer for the projects in the other two areas. However, I can assure readers that in Liverpool, urine samples are not produced in "degrading" conditions and there

is no question of female staff observing male offenders.

Merseyside Probation Service is working with a range of statutory and voluntary agencies, to establish for each offender placed on the order an individualised "treatment plan". The DTTO pilot projects are not perfect: we are still learning a great deal. There is no easy solution to the entrenched pattern of drug use, offending and prison. The Drug Treatment and Testing Order is a brave attempt to break this cycle.  
LINDA CRAWLEY  
Merseyside Probation Service  
Liverpool

## Phone nightmare

Sir: Why are the British public, and more importantly the Government, accepting so readily the fact that British Telecom is once again about to cause complete mayhem by changing a selection of UK dialling codes?

As the Chief Executive of the charity Medic Alert I am faced with the prospect of heading a programme not simply to alter our notepaper but to tackle the unenviable task of calling in and reissuing the 182,000 emergency identification emblems worn by our members, which have a London-based 24 hour emergency number engraved on the back.

The cost involved is galling enough but the planning and organisation of such a project, which will entail extra staffing and shift work along with new machinery and equipment, is a logistical nightmare.

Do we really just have to sit and do as we are told? And is there honestly no compensation for non-profit organisations such as ours? According to BT, apparently not.

If we are to believe BT, this change will last for at least a decade - but wasn't that what we were told the last time?

Suggestions, donations and volunteers all welcome.  
JULIE FRIEND  
Chief Executive, Medic Alert  
London N1

## Peace in Ireland

Sir: Full-scale arms decommissioning in Northern Ireland is unrealistic. It would be utter folly, and recklessly destabilising, for republicans, loyalists, or state security forces to undertake strategic disarmament at this stage.

However, what is most certainly realistic is the notion of putting some weapons beyond use. There is no credible basis for any argument against passing control of some weaponry to the international decommissioning body. Removing a few pounds of Semtex from a hoard of several thousand pounds doesn't alter strategic military capability. Nor does it destabilise the equilibrium between various armed groups. Also, weapons cached two hundred miles south in Tipperary are completely redundant when defending Belfast ghettos.

Neither republicans nor loyalists should dismiss the importance of participating in a voluntary act of reconciliation. Republicans in particular have most to lose by walking away. Quite simply, the world in general, and the North American Irish diaspora in particular, will just not comprehend how republicans could even contemplate ignoring the expressed wishes of the Irish people.

It is not correct to describe an act of reconciliation as surrender. On the contrary, to freely proffer a token in the form of weapons is a sign of confidence and empowerment. It will be the most important gesture ever made in modern Irish politics, the defining moment which transforms the whole peace process from one formed between enemies to one sustained between nascent friends.  
JOHN HOEY  
Belfast

## Angry pensioners

Sir: Your report (9 April) that a leading Labour activist is calling for a boycott by Labour Party members of the coming European elections should be heeded by Mr Blair.

Ten million pensioners, many of whom worked or voted to get a Labour government elected in 1997, are infuriated by broken promises that the state pension would form the foundation of retirement income and that they would share in the prosperity of the country. We are being patronised with gratuitous handouts and an increase in degrading, expensive and inefficient means testing.

Unless there is a sudden change in attitude by this government, senior citizens will have serious reservations about supporting an administration that treats election pledges to this generation of pensioners in such a cavalier way.  
CLIFFORD FULLER  
Gloucester

## Right of dissent

Sir: Jane Jakeman ("Daggers drawn", 8 April) alleges that I "tried to interrupt" a speech by Michael Mansfield at the last Crime Writers Association dinner "on the seemingly inflammatory subject of human rights". I neither tried to nor interrupted Mr Mansfield. I did, however, after his harangue about General Pinochet, politely inquire if he would be in favour of extraditing a particular IRA leader to a foreign country whose citizens had been murdered by terrorists under his control.

Like Mr Mansfield I care a great deal about human rights. That is why I spend much of my time championing the cause of frightened people in Northern Ireland who are beaten, tortured and mutilated by loyalist and republican terrorists.  
RUTH DUDLEY EDWARDS  
London NW5

## Jam today ...

Sir: "Lorries to jam nine cities" (headline, 12 April). Nothing new there, then.  
CHARLES HARRIS  
London NW3

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Billingsgate No 2: Porters at London's fish market hurry to unload incoming vans. The market has 120 porters altogether, and each trader must employ at least one on a full-time basis. For loading fish into a customer's van, the customer pays the porter 12p per stone 'bobbin' money. *Kalpesh Lathigra*

## Tinseltown's history of jazz hits a discordant note

THE AMERICAN trumpeter Chet Baker had a rough time in his life. From being the new star of jazz in the 1950s, looking a lot like James Dean and playing a bit like Miles Davis, he spiralled down through a life of drugs and jail and being beaten up by drug dealers. I can remember at the time coming across a piece on Chet Baker in a woman's magazine called *Ten Thousand Hell-Holes in My Arm*, which I always thought was rather a good title.

Moving to Europe, he later came to control if not exactly beat his drug habit and had a renaissance in the 1980s, now looking more like Jack Palance than James Dean. Finally re-established, he fell to his death in 1988. From a window in an Amsterdam jazz club, as I recall. And now, posthumously, there is

worse to come. He is probably to be played in a forthcoming Hollywood film by Leonardo di Caprio.

Anyone who has been around jazz history a bit will recognise why Hollywood might be attracted to his life (and ignore the fact that there is already a very good film about his life called *Let's Get Lost*). Hollywood likes a soft-centred jazz story with a bit of bittersweet tragedy worked in. There was *The Glenn Miller Story*, in which James Stewart as Glenn Miller died somewhere over the Channel trying to reach France in a brave mission to bring regimented dance music to the liberated French. There was *Young Man With a Horn*, in which Kirk Douglas created a fictionalised view of Bix Beiderbecke's life and bad times. There was *The Benny Goodman Story*, in which Benny

Goodman didn't die at all, because he was still alive in real life, which must have distressed Hollywood.

I wonder if anyone has noticed something that all these films have in common. Well done! All the subjects are white musicians. Not until Bernard Tavernier made *Round Midnight* and Clint Eastwood made *Bird* did a black jazz hero become the subject of a film, which is odd, because jazz is a black music. Film, however, is not a black industry, and Hollywood is not a black-orientated place, so it is not surprising that Hollywood's view of jazz has almost always been through white-tinted spectacles.

Chet Baker is white already, which is great. And it is true that he was popular in the 1950s, and had college-boy looks like James Dean's, and was a symbol of cool



MILES KINGDON

If Hollywood wants Leonardo to be Chet Baker, I expect it will go ahead and do it

jazz, West Coast jazz, Californian jazz, and all that. But I really think someone ought to step in before it's

too late, and say that it didn't go a lot further than that - that Chet Baker was not a jazz giant, not even an icon. A pin-up, yes; icon, no.

I was only a kid at the time of his greatest fame, and I remember Chet Baker being thought a bit too lightweight by the jazz crowd even then. I did buy jazz records with Chet Baker on, purely because they were by the ingenious Gerry Mulligan Quartet. Chet Baker played some nice counterpoint with Mulligan, and had a wispy, little boy charm and a pure tone which I quite liked, but a little of it went a long way, and I can clearly remember preferring the trumpet who replaced Chet Baker with Mulligan, Jon Eardley. Jon Eardley, as far as I know, moved to Europe shortly afterwards and has stayed on the mainland ever

since, leading a respectable life, and thus will never have his life story filmed by Hollywood.

To be honest, the reason that Chet Baker became famous was that the media wanted a white jazz musician they could publicise at a time when modern jazz was hip. Just as Elvis Presley fulfilled the dreams of the pop music industry - who yearned for a white boy who could sing like a black man - so Chet Baker came at the right time for the public face of jazz.

The mass public has always preferred a safe white equivalent. Bix Beiderbecke was preferred by white audiences to Louis Armstrong, Harry James was preferred to Roy Eldridge, and Chet Baker was top of the polls ahead of Miles Davis, Fats Navarro, Dizzy Gillespie and all the black

guys who were streets ahead of him. (Like Clifford Brown, for instance, a truly astonishing trumpeter whose poise and grace, whose agile imaginings, still sound heartachingly good 40 or 50 years later. He was born a year later than Chet Baker and he died in 1966, at 26, killed in a car crash. He was black. He was not known to be much into drugs. He will never have his life filmed.)

However, if Hollywood wants Leonardo to be Chet Baker, I expect it will go ahead and make Leonardo into Chet Baker. The last time Leonardo was in the news was because the film he was making in Thailand involved some rearrangement of the Siamese landscape. Don't be too surprised if this one involves some nifty rearrangement of the shape of jazz history.







## PANDORA

PETER MANDELSON is close to selling his Notting Hill flat. According to agents Marsh & Parsons, Mandy's accepted an offer close to the £785,000 guide price - but his buyer's stuck in a chain...

MANDY'S FRIEND Rupert Murdoch is experiencing similar frustrations with the sale of his rather grander £12.5m, six-acre property in Los Angeles. The media tycoon has taken the 17-room house off the market after a succession of curiosity-seekers (some of them pretty high-voltage - they include studio heads Michael Eisner and Jeffrey Katzenberg, along with uber agent Michael Ovitz) traipsed through it. Murdoch is reported as saying: "I'm sick and tired of having moguls visit my house and rifle through my desk."

BATHROOMS ARE dangerous. According to the new issue of *Good Housekeeping*, 240 people every year on these shores end up in casualty after "incidents with bidets".

HAS FAT lady Clarissa Dickson Wright joined the Liberal Democrats? Pandora's taking the story with a pinch of salt, but as Wright's professional partner Jennifer Paterson writes for the camp Tory rag *The Spectator*, such a switch could add a much spicier tone to the duo's kitchen table discourse...

MEANWHILE CULINARY subversives the Nosh Brothers continue to add their own idiosyncratic piquancy to the saccharine confection that is celebrity cheddar. The brothers, who publish an alcoholically flavoured cookbook called *Summer Nosh* this week, recently nominated their 15 least favourite things about British restaurants. Highlights include electric handblowers ("very motorway service station"), "poncey descriptions on menus" (like "smothered with a garnish of larks' tongues and a distilled jus of whatever"), Australian wine and... foreign waiters. They hate East European staff because "they've no

concept of service or hygiene". And the brothers don't like Italians because "they chat up your crumpet".

WHICH WILL be the coolest shades to wear this summer? Fashionistas swear by the expensive new Chanel glasses: they have to be slipped over the head because the unit is essentially two monocles joined by wire at the back. But the smart money is on Kirk Originals with their amber-tinted "world-enhancing view" lenses. They're very popular among young people who like snow...

WE'RE USED to ladnags featuring acres of skin - but now it's women's titles that are moving beyond sexy coverlines into totty territory. The new *Elle* features a racy spread of naked thesp Keely Hawes while, over the water, Cosmo plans to take over a Manhattan department store window and fill it with lingerie models to launch its swimsuit issue... you've come a long way, baby! Nylon, the new femme-targeted title, launched today by the cutting-edge RayGun-Bikini stable, features an eight-page lingerie spread in its debut issue. If money ever gets tight, Nylon can always recruit its talent in-house: the magazine is the brainchild of supermodel Helena Christensen (pictured).

PAUL McCARTNEY'S lachrymose Royal Albert Hall gig this week apparently presages us seeing a lot more of the old pothead. He's apparently been back to his Abbey Road stomping ground, laying down a disc full of sixties cover versions with fellow dinosaurs Pink Floyd. Tell Grandma.

DURING THE Arabesque party at Momo restaurant the other day, Candace Bushnell, creator of *Channel Four's* *Sex in the City*, said that Brits are too sexually indiscreet. "I've never visited anywhere where the sexes are so disparaging about each other - English men say 'English women are bad in bed, and English women say English men are bad in bed.' Yes Candace, but compared to your native New Yorkers what are we really like in bed? 'Let's just say I haven't been disappointed,' she replied. Ah, the joys of research...

Contact Pandora by e-mail: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)

## Hedgehogs versus handmade books



## TERENCE BLACKER

Does the obsession with the millennium indicate a profound lack of national self-confidence?

THERE WAS mixed millennial news for the Eastern counties last week. A public meeting set up by the Diss Chamber of Commerce to review appropriate end-of-year celebrations was attended by a total of seven people: six members of the chamber and a local journalist.

Berating the community for its lack of interest, the President of the Chamber, Ken Wells, described the millennium as "the biggest event most of us will experience in our lives". Meanwhile a fund-raising appeal for the event organised by a local supermarket has produced a total of £10 in two months - a sum which compares unfavourably to the £700 raised last month for a nearby Hedgehog Rescue Hospital.

On the brighter side, money for the "Haverhill Face of 2000" has now been confirmed, according to a breezy newsletter from Eastern Arts. The plan is for 2000 Haverhillians to photograph one another and for the results to be cybernetically morphed into one face: a lovely idea and doubtless worth every penny of the £25,378 of public money that it is going to cost.

With this and other such projects,

including *The Changing Face of Luton* (£29,530, Bedfordshire's 200 handmade books "to document women's attitudes, hopes and aspirations for the new millennium" (£14,881) and multicultural carnivals in Peterborough and Essex (£23,616 and £29,520), a total of £820,480 will be spent to "bring communities together, create new artistic work and celebrate the identity of

communities across the region". By an unhappy, if telling, accident of timing, all these exciting plans were overshadowed by an event which did rather less for these admirable aims.

With breathtaking ineptitude and callousness, Eastern Arts and local councils withdrew funding from the Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich a few days before the start of its amateur season. On the region's TV news, teenage members of the Wolsey Youth Theatre, whose adaptation of Roald Dahl's *Boy* was due to open this week after seven months' rehearsal, were seen sobbing outside the closed theatre.

Doubtless we shall be told that the situation at the Wolsey was complex, that the rescue plan, although overseen by Eastern Arts, was not working, that it is inappropriate to compare the £322,750 spent on the theatre last year to a one-off grant, almost double the amount, being given by the Lottery's millennium fund to the Peterborough carnival, the Changing Face of Luton and the rest. The money comes from different sources. And, of course, the millennium is the

biggest event most of us will experience in our lives.

Yet behind the justifications and rationalisations, there's a grim consistency to it all. Visit most medium-sized towns across the region - indeed in any agricultural part of Britain - and you will find the identity of communities being celebrated in a peculiar manner. Crass, short-sighted planning has allowed greedy supermarket chains to leech the life-blood from the centre of towns. Those worst affected, as is ever the case, are teenagers too old to play on swings and too young to escape by car. In an atmosphere of boredom and despair, rural crime and vandalism is on the increase.

Those who sit plumply on committees, whether in councils or on arts boards, invariably ignore the problem. When a prime building-site became available on the outskirts of Diss recently, there was a widely supported campaign by town residents for a cinema to be built there. No prizes for guessing what is on its way - a supermarket to join the other three which have done so much to destroy the town.

No wonder that local worthies

and arts administrators seize on the millennium with such glee. What better way to distract attention from real challenges and opportunities, to provide a flashy, fake illusion of community spirit than with a moribund face or a multicultural knees-up? Producing 200 handmade books may cost over £14,000 (£70 a volume? Surely that can't be right?) but it has the advantage of requiring no follow-through, no embarrassing scenes of distraught, disappointed teenagers on the evening news.

What does it all mean? Does this official obsession with the millennium indicate a profound lack of national self-confidence? To judge by the relatively sane behaviour of other countries, there's something peculiarly British about the desperate yearning for spurious historical significance.

But, if Diss and Ipswich are anything to go by, those outside the committee rooms are not fooled. For them, celebrating local identity involves long-term decisions rather than one-off gimmicks. As for the millennium, they would prefer to save their money for the hedgehogs.

## Bad dads need help just as much as single mothers



## HELEN WILKINSON

New Labour should learn the lesson from the US: it's not that 'deadbeats' won't pay - they can't

IF SINGLE-PARENT mothers were the target of the right's moral disapproval for much of the 1990s, in the late 1990s new scapegoats are in danger of being found. Deadbeat dads and feckless fathers have begun to excoriate the energies of the Democrats and New Labour.

The reason is political as well as moral, financial as well as philosophical. While governments are now all too keen to lend a helping hand to today's struggling single-parent mums, when it comes to non-resident fathers the opposite has been true. Here the rhetoric has been harsher, the message tougher. Political attention has turned to bad dads - amoral dads, dads who have deserted their offspring and walked away from their moral and financial responsibilities.

Why is this? In both the US and Britain a series of social trends - the divorce epidemic, increasing relationship breakdown and a dramatic decline in marriage rates in inner cities - have combined to produce a phenomenon called "the feminisation of poverty". Crudely put, this means more and more single-parent mums dependent on benefits, more and more children in poverty and more and more fathers refusing to accept responsibility - moral and financial - for the welfare of their children.

It is these trends that explain much of the pressure to reform welfare in both countries. But in a political climate where talk of tax increases is to commit electoral suicide, the challenge both for the Democrats and now for New Labour has been to find new sources of income without imposing additional costs on taxpayers, who are after all tomorrow's voters. Hence the focus on bad dads.

In America, the first wave of change has seen states introduce

punitive "naming and shaming" tactics to bully and intimidate "bad dads" into accepting their financial and moral responsibilities.

In theory this sounds perfectly acceptable but the infringements of personal liberty and the tactics chosen by many American states are shocking when you come face to face with them in practice. Massachusetts has led the way with, among other things, the power to revoke driving licences when faced with non-payment of child support.

More controversial still, posters adorn the Boston subway with photo identikit asking you if you recognise any of these "criminals". Closer inspection reveals them to be dads delinquent in their payment of child support. Massachusetts' hard-hitting campaign has been effective, and child support collections have risen dramatically. Partly as a consequence, other states have followed their lead: a number of states now have "Bad Dad" websites where worthy neighbours, friends and even family are called upon to do the right thing and snitch on those dads who

are not accepting their moral (and therefore financial) responsibilities.

There is no doubt that this kind of punitive approach has its virtues. It has certainly worked to shame some fathers - predominantly middle-class ones - into accepting their responsibilities, and quite right too. However, such an approach also has its weaknesses. It can alienate and stigmatise those who are unable to pay, perpetuating vicious cycles of exclusion.

In this sense, much of the energy has been misdirected. Many "deadbeats", as Americans like to call them, are actually poor. More and more research has come to light that it's not so much that they won't pay as that they can't.

Poverty, that unfashionable word in the late 1990s, stands in the way, and posters that name and shame the poor and disenfranchised simply reinforces their sense of exclusion and injustice from a society that seems reluctant to accept its moral responsibility to them.

New Labour, which is often in thrall to the US experience, should learn the lesson. Moral outrage and platitudes about financial responsibility that bear little understanding of the realities of inner-city life may generate a cheap headline in the tabloid press but in the end they achieve little of practical value on the ground for those communities most in need.

The good (and somewhat surprising news) from the US is that the next wave of reform there implicitly recognises this. Pioneering states such as Colorado have developed sophisticated public engagement campaigns through the Governor's office involving sports figures such as baseball players with catchy headlines such as "Fatherhood is a contact sport" and "Be a hero to your child. Pay child support".



The ideal family no longer matches up to inner-city reality Colorful

The most interesting aspect of these initiatives, and ultimately the most far-reaching in influence, is that the rhetoric of moral decline and pessimism is beginning to be challenged by a more upbeat, positive and cautiously optimistic message.

Such campaigns implicitly recognise that there is no one archetypal amoral bad dad, just as there is no one archetypal amoral single-parent mom. The vast majority of low-income non-resident fathers, like the vast majority of low-income single-parent mums, are struggling to cope and need a helping hand.

For the first time, federal (and state) resources are being devoted to welfare-to-work schemes targeted at low-income fathers, the kind of fathers trapped in America's inner-city sink estates. Of course, the resources nowhere near match the scale of the problem. But this is a historic first. The federal government now recognises that unemployed non-resident fathers, as well as single-parent mothers, need a

helping hand in their efforts to gain work. At the same time, these employment-based strategies are being directly linked to other voluntary initiatives, such as parenting classes.

New Labour should learn the lessons from the American experience - namely that if society is going to preach the virtues of responsible parenthood, it too must accept its own responsibility for creating the conditions for low-income parents - fathers as well as mothers - to thrive. None of this means that New Labour's rhetoric of parental responsibility is wide of the mark, far from it. Just that it needs to be underpinned by a clearer understanding of how poverty impacts on people's capacities to act responsibly, and how, in turn, we as a society have a responsibility to tackle the causes and consequences of that poverty collectively.

The author is a London-based research associate with New York's Families and Work Institute

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INDI77

## How the East was won for Britain

SIR STAMFORD Raffles was not perhaps sufficiently honoured and admired by his contemporaries in England, but his name is forever linked with a major city of our times, the city of Singapore, which he founded in 1819.

Raffles is also connected with a brief but important spell of British rule in Indonesia, in the island of Java. Taking over from the Dutch, he assumed the role of British colonial authority in the island, at the time of the Napoleonic Wars. It only lasted for less than six years (1812-17), but it created an everlasting impression.

Thanks to Raffles' personal interests, British rule in Java - and indeed in the East - was later much romanticised and idealised. Raffles was turned into a myth. He was seen as the enlightened English ruler par excellence, a man of taste and culture who loved and admired the people of South-East Asia and only wanted to help them to regain their self-esteem, unlike the highly exploitative and bloodthirsty Dutch who had ruled the island before he came along.

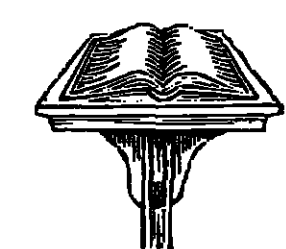
The myth of Raffles helped

people to forget the not-so-enlightened actions of his countrymen in India before and after his own time. It is indeed a myth that lingers on, in a subtle way, even though colonialism is a thing of the past.

It should not be forgotten, however, that a great deal of what we know about Raffles in Java is from his own book, *History of Java*, published in 1817 in two volumes.

In this book he is obviously keen to glorify his own actions, to tell his countrymen - a number of whom were clearly his political enemies - about his benevolent measures and to persuade them that Java was worthy of colonial interest.

The "researcher" Raffles was most of all a great collector: one also wonders whether his much publicised friendship with Javanese noblemen was not somewhat hampered by his inability to converse in Javanese. He relied very much on the able diplomat John Crawford, whose linguistic abilities were dazzling - it was said that he had mastered Javanese in just six months - to communicate with the Javanese princes and courtiers. Raffles needed to



## PODIUM

DR ALESSANDRA IYER

From a lecture by the expert on Javanese art given at the British Museum

rely on other people to collect information; he simply processed whatever other people brought to him and used the information to create his own picture of Javanese life, a picture in which he made sure that his own role as a benevolent, sympathetic English friend and master would always be apparent.

There is no denying that Sir Stamford was a highly intelligent man, full of intellectual

curiosity, keen to know more about Java and its people, and it is easy to see how glibly he can be romanticised.

Raffles is credited with the discovery of Javanese temples. Even today travel brochures advertising tours to Java will use catch phrases such as: "It is thanks to Sir Stamford Raffles and Unesco that the site of Borobudur has been saved for posterity." Before he arrived on the scene, so it seems, the temples went uncared for, fully neglected by the people of Java who no longer practised the ancient rituals, having been converted to Islam.

When Sir Stamford found himself in Java, as he went for one of his strolls he found one of such marvels and he immediately ordered a team of people to begin clearing the area, drawing the temples, recording their existence and searching for more. In fact Raffles himself stated in his *History of Java* that the Javanese did "continue to pay their devours" to the idols of the temples, thus making one wonder whether the temples had really been forgotten.

As a collector, Raffles was

not interested only in the ancient past of Java, which he tried to dissect in order to present a picture of the island that would impress favourably his contemporaries. He was also interested in the living artistic traditions, such as the *wayang* (shadow theatre), the *topeng* (dance drama) and also the *gamelan* (musical ensemble). His love for detail meant that every instrument of the *gamelan* was precisely drawn and described in his book. This contributed to the building of his reputation as ethnomusicologist *avant la lettre*.

There is no doubt that even though Raffles himself did not have an easy time upon his return to England - he suffered considerable financial losses and died in 1826 at only 44 - his *History of Java* turned him, after his death, into a long-lasting myth and helped to create the fiction of British benign colonial rule.

Raffles erases the discomfort and guilt caused in post-colonial consciousness by the likes of Macaulay, and thus British rule in the East can be remembered guiltlessly, with an elegiac aura to it.



books

arts administrators seize the millennium with such glee. What other way to distract attention from real challenges and opportunities, to provide a flashy, self-styled face or a mask, and make books may not be the right? But it has the advantage of requiring no follow-through, no embarrassing scenes in the evening news.

What does it all mean? The official obsession with the millennium indicates a profound lack of national self-confidence. To judge the relatively sane behaviour of other countries there's something peculiarly British about the obsessive yearning for spurious historical significance.

But if this is all, why are we going to go by those outside the committee rooms are not looking at them, celebrating local identity, involves long-term decisions rather than one-off gimmicks. As for the millennium, they would prefer to save their money for the holidays.

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up to university reality

helping them in their efforts to work. At the same time, these employment-based strategies are being used to attract other volunteers. The focus is on providing a sense of purpose and meaning to the work.

New Labour should learn lessons from the American experience. The American approach to social work is based on a combination of professional expertise and volunteerism. This approach has been successful in addressing a wide range of social problems.

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Britain

not interested in a new approach to social work. The American approach is based on a combination of professional expertise and volunteerism. This approach has been successful in addressing a wide range of social problems.

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# Shifting people is no answer



**TIM JUDAH**  
*Some 2.5 million Balkan people were uprooted in the period 1912-23 by war and population exchange*

ACCORDING TO the report from Kosovo "whole villages are reduced to ashes, unarmed and innocent populations massacred en masse" and "credible acts of violence, pillage and brutality" have been committed. Yesterday's Nato briefing. It could have been, but in fact these words were written just after the Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913.

In the spirit of contemporary "peace studies" the American Carnegie Endowment for International Peace sent various luminaries to the Balkans at the time to report on the situation there. The idea was, that by making people aware of the horrors of war men could be persuaded to avoid repeating their mistakes.

In the wake of the expulsion or flight of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians from Kosovo over the last two weeks it is quite chilling to re-read the Carnegie Endowment report and its conclusions. The "Serbo-Montenegrin" soldiery it said were employing brutal methods "with a view to the entire transformation of the ethnic character of regions inhabited exclusively by Albanians".

During the first Balkan war of 1912, Serbia, Montenegro, Greece and Bulgaria united to drive out the remnants of the Ottoman Empire in Europe. During the second Balkan war, in 1913, they fought amongst themselves over the spoils. The two wars provoked massive population upheavals. Rather like today, the armies found that people often did not wait to be expelled or as we say now, ethnically cleansed. According to the Carnegie report people just knew from "tradition, instinct and experience" what to do.

It added that, generally speaking, an enemy army only had to set one village on fire for others to flee. "The population, warned by the glow from these fires, fled all in haste".

The Carnegie Endowment's phrase "instinct and experience" was apt. Serbs, Albanians and Muslims had all fled in one direction or another during various spasms of conflict during the 19th century. Some two million fled in the wake of the Serbian-Turkish wars of 1876-8, including Albanians from Serbia and Serbs from Ottoman-controlled Kosovo. Turks and Muslims were also emigrating from Greece.



At Smyrna (now Izmir) in 1922, ethnic Greeks flee the triumphant Turkish forces under Atatürk

Hulton Getty

In the wake of the Balkan Wars and the post-war conflict between Greece and Turkey came the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne. Today we would be outraged by it, calling it legalised ethnic cleansing. What the agreement did was to uproot ancient settlements of Greeks in Anatolia and exchange them for Turks and Muslims from Greece. Bulgaria too made formal arrangements with Greece and Turkey to exchange their minority populations.

By one estimation, some two and half million people in the Balkans were shifted from their homes during the period 1912-23 thanks to wars and population exchanges. Between 1924 and 1933 100,000 people, mostly ethnic Turks, also emigrated to Turkey, mainly from Yugoslav Macedonia.

In February 1938, at a conference in Istanbul, Turkey, Romania and Yugoslavia met to discuss ways of encouraging emigration to Turkey. The Turkish Government wanted Muslim settlers for its empty regions and to repopulate those areas which Greeks had left. The Balkan states were happy to encourage the emigration of their non-Christian populations.

Of course these forced migrations followed an impeccable logic. As Dimitrije Djordjevic of the University of California wrote only 10 years ago for "Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey the population ex-

changes of the earlier part of the century, "although a curse for contemporary generations" have proved to be "a blessing in the long run of history".

Djordjevic argues that this was because it had transformed these states into "predominantly nationally homogenous states. It stabilised their frontiers along which refugees were mainly settled".

In an era in which human rights are, rightly, supposed to outweigh those of "my country right or wrong" it is important to understand that the main protagonists in the wars of former Yugoslavia have never wavered in their belief that population exchanges or ethnic cleansing are the only way to ensure the long term stability of their countries.

In July 1991, just as the war in Croatia was beginning Mario Nobilo, then an advisor to Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, drew me a map of how Serbs, Muslims and Croats would be "exchanged" across the former Yugoslavia, especially in Bosnia. After all, he said, there was a perfect precedent for this, which was the Treaty of Lausanne. He suggested that this model should be followed in Yugoslavia, although the exchanges should be "voluntary".

As we know the "exchanges" that subsequently did take place were far from voluntary, but Croa-

tia has indeed solved its Serbian Question. It used to have a 12 per cent Serb minority - now it has none. In August 1995 Croatia, with western connivance, steam-rolled the former Serb-held areas of Croatia. Today Serbia is home to up to 600,000 Serbian refugees from both Croatia and Bosnia.

Having seemingly decided to risk all in confrontation with the West, Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav President, appears to have duly opted to "finish the job" that his predecessors failed to do during the Balkan wars. That is to say that his aim appears to be to cleanse Kosovo and repopulate it with his Bosnian and Croatian refugees.

To a certain extent the West is complicit in letting Milosevic think he can get away with this. The first reason for this is that we gave no tangible support to the Kosovo Albanians, who for so long, while other ex-Yugoslavs readily took up the gun, eschewed violence and opted for passive resistance. The second reason is that we did nothing either when the Krajina Serbs were cleansed.

Indeed by not taking up the case of the Krajina Serbs we fell into the logic of ethnic cleansing in that, without saying so, we tacitly agreed that since Croatia had solved her Serbian problem then, ergo, that was the end of the matter, and what a relief that was too.

The problem was, and is, that the danger of applying the logic of the 1920s today leads us to a clear but flawed moral choice. Either we must accept that ethnic cleansing can lead to stability for future generations or we can try and make a stand against it if we believe in human rights and, besides, want to halt a destructive process now, before it spreads.

That ethnic cleansing today can no longer lead to stability is amply demonstrated by the fact that our failure to act over the Krajina refugees means that many Serbs today believe that because of this they should, à la Tudjman, solve their own ethnic problem by batte-ning down the hatches. That means enduring Nato's bombing now only to re-emerge from the shelters to find that they have rid Kosovo of its Albanians - and their problem.

The argument then runs that all Balkan states, or at least the former Yugoslav states and Albania, should meet to redraw their borders - a part of Kosovo could be lived off to a Greater Albania while Serbia could compensate itself with the Serb half of Bosnia.

It may come to this, but it will not lead to peace. Not only would it more than likely lead to a return to war in Bosnia - as the Muslims would again be asked pay the price - but those Albanians who had

been driven from their homes in what was now Serbian Kosovo would doubtless fight on.

Another example of the way that unreversed ethnic cleansing or population exchanges can lead to tension and possible conflict is the Turkish Cypriot offer to take in 5,000 ethnic Albanian refugees. A generous offer? Yes, until you realise that the ulterior motive of the Turkish Cypriot offer is to bolster its own population and house these people in areas from which Greeks have fled. It is hardly surprising then that the Greek Cypriots have reacted with fury to such a suggestion.

In the long run, the evil of partition and ethnic cleansing may triumph, and therefore spread elsewhere, but I suspect that if Nato grits its teeth and faces the inevitable - ground troops and a protectorate for Kosovo - then this may yet be avoided.

If Nato does nothing then Milosevic's solution may triumph. If Nato establishes a protectorate - and a genuine one which would avoid revenge and the persecution of the Kosovo Serbs - then maybe the West will show that it has found the courage of its convictions and is also prepared to act in the spirit of enlightened self-interest too.

Tim Judah is the author of *The Serbs: History, Myth & the Destruction of Yugoslavia*

## RIGHT OF REPLY

JANET BUSH



The director of New Europe responds to Diane Coyle's attack on the anti-euro lobby

DIANE COYLE argued last Thursday that defenders of the pound "clothe their gut anti-Europeanism and Little Englandism in the language of rational economic argument" while in fact wanting to withdraw from the EU altogether.

New Europe was set up precisely to counter such prejudice. Nobody who knows Jim Prior, Dennis Healey or David Owen and their contributions to British political life can doubt their commitment to Europe.

How can a charge of Little Englandism be thrown at Ewen Fergusson, a former ambassador to Paris, or indeed at John Sainsbury who served as Joint Honorary Treasurer of the European Movement?

Too much of this debate is tainted by the passion on both sides and, on occasion, the facts suffer. Diane Coyle stated that New Europe is financed by Rupert Murdoch. I am sure that Mr Murdoch was as surprised to hear that he had been parted from his money as we were. It simply isn't the case.

We have been inundated by people of every political persuasion, delighted at last to find a group that is pro-European but shares their legitimate concerns about the euro. Opposition to the euro is not the preserve of the "nutty right".

If there is one thing that I would like to achieve as director, it is to convince people at home in the centre and centre left of politics to be open about their doubts. It is not politically incorrect. You can be New Labour to the core but still disagree with Tony Blair on the single currency.

Far from sniping at New Europe, its arrival should be welcomed as a bulwark against those shrill voices that want a No vote in the euro referendum to be a vote to leave the European Union.

# His time was short, his vision long

AT BONAR Law's funeral in 1923, Asquith cuttingly remarked: "We are burying the unknown Prime Minister." Law was Prime Minister for just seven months - the shortest tenure of any modern holder of the office. Yet he was not Prime Minister by accident. He had been a highly successful leader of the Tory party for 10 years and Deputy Prime Minister for five; and it was not political defeat which cut him short, but cancer. He was a leading figure in the tumultuous decade before, during, and after the Great War, who played the central role in pulling down the last two Liberal prime ministers before taking the office - reluctantly - himself. For all that he held the job for only seven months, he was a considerably more substantial figure than John Major, who held it for seven years.



## TUESDAY BOOK

BONAR LAW  
BY R J Q ADAMS, JOHN MURRAY, £25

It is a major gap that there has been no new biography of Law since Robert Blake's in 1956, especially in view of the quantity of source material now available. There can be no period of political history so rich in written evidence. It was a period of huge party-splitting controversies conducted by a small class who mixed across party lines and wrote voluminously to one another. We know almost too much about this cast of characters, and their movements and machinations.

The story of the replacement of Asquith by Lloyd George in December 1916 has been told so often by biographers that one more turn round the course inevitably has a sense of *deja vu*. Yet it remains endlessly absorbing, as do the showdown over the peers' veto, the posturing brinkmanship over Ulster, the downfall of Lloyd George and the other dramas of these years. Professor Adams rehearses them all authoritatively and well.

What is striking is how topical these issues still are. We are still arguing about how to complete the reform of the House of Lords, begun in 1911. We are still trying to satisfy the irreconcilable loyalties of Unionists and nationalists in the north of Ireland. We are still trying to avoid unwinnable wars in the Balkans and the Middle East. Nothing could be more relevant today than Bonar Law's warning, when the Lloyd George government was threatening war against Turkey in October 1922, that, "We cannot act as the policeman of the world".

Law was a curiously modern figure in another way. He was the first of a new meritocratic breed of Tory leader. A Glaswegian-Canadian iron merchant who had not been to university and boasted no cultural pretensions beyond a love of bridge, he represented a startling contrast with his aristocratic predecessors, Salisbury and Balfour. He drew the snobbish condescension of Balliol men such as Asquith, who called him a "glided tradesman". But he set the tone for his two successors, Baldwin and Neville Chamberlain. Churchill reclaimed the

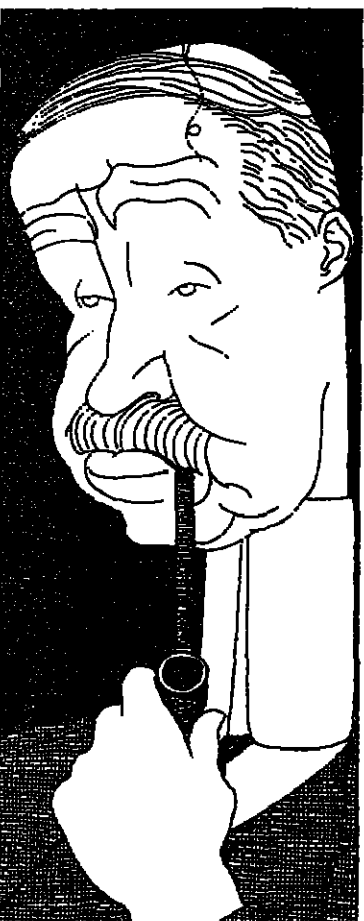
party for the toffs, followed by Eden, Macmillan and Home. But Ted Heath suffered exactly the same sort of snobbery in opening the way for Mrs Thatcher, Major and William Hague.

Fascinated as we have become by Tory leadership elections, the story of Law's emergence as compromise candidate between Austen Chamberlain and Walter Long in 1911 intriguingly anticipates the contests of 1975, 1990 and 1997. The Tories always choose the unlikeliest candidate. But whether - as Adams' jacket suggests - the story of Law's success in leading the party out of the wilderness holds out much encouragement for Hague, is doubtful. The Liberals' massive majority of 1906 had already been eroded by 1910, and Law faced a government uncomfortably dependent on the Irish, losing momentum well before 1914. But for the First World War, Law would surely have become Prime Minister in 1915. It is difficult to say the same of Hague in 2001.

The only disappointment of this book is that it tells so little about Law's early life - the most interesting part of most biographies. Born in Canada but brought up by relatives in Glasgow from the age of seven (or possibly 12), he joined his adoptive family's firm at 16, became a successful trader in the Glasgow Iron Ring, joined a parliamentary debating society, married and fathered six children, and was elected for a Glasgow seat in 1900 at the age of 42.

All this takes fewer than 20 pages. Thereafter the private man largely disappears, except for assurances that he was a devoted husband (widowed at 51) and father, devastated by the loss of two sons in the war. Perhaps there is nothing more to say.

Law was a notoriously unsocialable workaholic. Yet he is an oddly endearing character, a wonderfully gloomy Eeyore, the perfect foil to Lloyd George's bouncy Tigger. Much

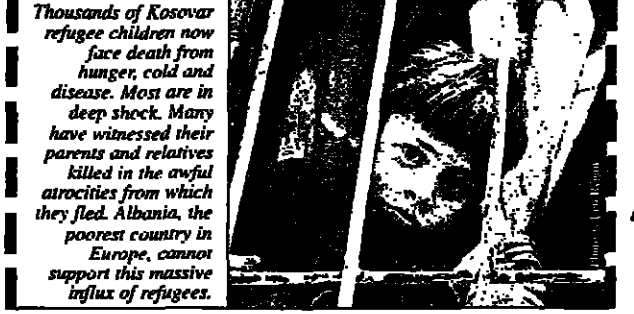


Law drawn by Powys Evans in the 'Saturday Review' Mary Evans

as Attlee was to Churchill in the next war. One would love to know more of the chemistry of this relationship. That apart, however, Professor Adams' book is a model of lucid and authoritative political biography.

JOHN CAMPBELL  
The reviewer's life of Edward Heath was published in 1993; he is writing a biography of Margaret Thatcher

## Kosova children appeal to Independent readers



Thousands of Kosovar refugee children now face death from hunger, cold and disease. Most are in deep shock. Many have witnessed their parents and relatives killed in the awful atrocities from which they fled. Albania, the poorest country in Europe, cannot support this massive influx of refugees.

**Your action will save children who have lost everything**

The European Children's Trust needs your swift response to expand our emergency centre in northern Albania to help thousands of refugees. Our team has been working with displaced Kosovar families since this tragedy began. We are ready to provide food, medical aid and clothing to the confused and frightened children who arrive daily.

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# Professor Tom Patten

TIME AND chance determine our lives. Tom Patten happened to be a talented, highly practical can-do and up-and-coming senior lecturer in mechanical sciences at Edinburgh University when it transpired in the early 1960s that the first traces of gas (not oil) were being identified in the North Sea.

I was a member of a Commons Committee stage of an obscure bill on North Sea Gas installations in 1963 when I had a phone call from Patten, whom I did not know at that time. "I must see you. I will be out at your house this afternoon." That was his style. It was clear from our first meeting that he had identified the huge potential importance of what was happening in the North Sea - and indeed he was the first Scot not from an oil company who took the trouble to go to Houston, Texas, and other world centres of the oil industry.

Destiny had called. For the next three decades, Patten was to be one of the pivotal figures in the North Sea gas and oil industry. In addition to unquestioned engineering expertise, he had a blunt charm and shrewd judgement of people which allowed him to bestride both the academic and the business world. Unlike many academics who go into business, he maintained a serious interest in his subject of heat transfer science until the end of his life. Professor Ewan Brown, the merchant banker and executive director of Noble Cossart, says that Patten was not only welcome on boards for his technical knowledge but that his contribution was much broader than technical expertise and brought wisdom to boardrooms such as that of Pict Petroleum, to which he brought a most valuable non-executive continuity.

Tom Patten was born the youngest of the three children of William Patten, of Ford, Northumberland, who had risen from a Post Office telegraph boy through his own efforts to become the manager of the Prudential Insurance Company for the Scottish region. His mother was of the Hall family who had been farm labourers in Northumberland for

generations. Thanks to an education at Leith Academy under rigorous old-fashioned Scottish dominions for which he was always grateful, he went to Edinburgh University.

The Public Orator in giving the encomium for Patten's honorary degree as Doctor of Science in 1963 said dryly that the record showed that he had missed only two lectures in all his student degree course - one on hydraulics and the other on the theory of machines on 28 July 1944. Patten told me later in life that he and his contemporaries had worked so assiduously because they realised that others of their peer group were at the front risking their lives and it behooved them to work extremely hard for their country.

On leaving university he was commissioned into REME and post-

structure and the vain attempt to shore up the Greek king against socialists and Communists.

In 1948 he was brought back to Edinburgh University by Professor Ronald Arnold, the famous Regius Professor of Engineering whose students won more than 20 professorial chairs. Patten enjoyed a promotion rate not much slower than that he had achieved in the Army by becoming a captain, and became acting head of department before the age of 40. He was also given the responsibility, important in those days, of running the university's OTC (Officer Training Corps).

The Public Orator wryly remarked, "However quick he may have been at getting degrees and military promotion, he was rather slow at learning the age at which

interest of Heriot-Watt in relation to oil development and that he "carried the torch on behalf of Heriot-Watt University for interests in the developments of the North Sea". Heriot-Watt, along with University College London, emerged as the two universities in Britain to have made a serious speciality in North Sea studies.

Professor Jack Rorke recalls that Heriot-Watt was given its breakthrough when Brown Brothers gave the university the contract for working out means by which their Statoil low-platform semi-submersible could be held on location. They could not do the computer studies themselves. Heriot-Watt seized their chance and Patten became in 1972 the Director of the Institute of Offshore Engineering at Heriot-Watt.

As Vice-Principal, 1978-80, he became the Acting Principal on the unexpected death of George Burnett. He took on a poisoned chalice because it was the time when university funds were being cut. Patten won great praise for guiding Heriot-Watt through the financial traumas of the early 1980s at a time when the university was relocating to its new site to the west of Edinburgh at Riccarton.

Patten had a change of direction and became involved with a mosaic of companies involved in the North Sea - Pict Petroleum, Melville Street Investments, New Darien Oil Trust, Seaboard Lloyd, Sealand Industries, Edinburgh Petroleum Services - and from 1987 to 1991, he chaired the Co-ordinating Committee on Marine Science and Technology, the predecessor of which he had been a member of in the 1960s, brought in by Dickson Mabon, then Minister of State at the Scottish Office responsible for the North Sea. From the 1950s, he gave much time too to the Military Education Committee of the Ministry of Defence, particularly on the security of oil rigs.

Nothing gave him greater pleasure than that he should be the first professor domiciled in Scotland to become President of the Institute of Mechanical Engineering, from 1991 to 1992. Unfortunately his time in office coincided with the immensely



Patten: doyen of North Sea studies at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh

complicated, seemingly endless and finally fruitless negotiations to unite the Mechanicals, the Electricals and the Civils, when it was hoped that they would effect a merger. I say domiciled in Scotland because Watt and Stephenson and other distinguished Scots based in England were among his distinguished predecessors.

A lifelong interest was relations with Eastern Europe and he was the standing chairman of a conference which regularly met at Vilnius in Lithuania on the problems of heat

transfer science. Patten, with a chuckle (and he did chuckle), contrasted his close relations with Communist Europe with his position as a livemanager of the Worshipful Company of Engineers and Freeman of the City of London.

TAM DAINYELL

Tom Patten, marine scientist: born Ford, Northumberland 1 January 1926; Assistant Lecturer, Department of Engineering, Edinburgh University 1950-52; Lecturer 1952-60; Senior Lecturer 1960-67; Pro-

fessor and Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Heriot-Watt University 1967-82 (Emeritus); Director, Institute of Offshore Engineering 1972-79; Vice-Principal 1978-80; Acting Principal 1980-81; FRSE 1967; CBE 1981; President, Society for Underwater Technology 1985-87; President, Engineering Committee on Oceanic Resources 1987-90; President, Institute of Mechanical Engineering 1991-92; married 1950 Jacqueline Wright (one son, two daughters); died Edinburgh 10 April 1999.



Lutyens: world expert on Krishnamurti

MARY LUTYENS, who became the acknowledged world expert and writer on the Indian spiritual philosopher Krishnamurti, was only two years old when her mother, Lady Emily Lutyens, became a theosophist.

In 1911 Annie Besant, president of the Theosophical Society, which based its teaching on Hindu ideas and philosophy, brought Krishnamurti, a brahmin child named after the Hindu deity, and his brother Nitya, to England. Lady Emily took the two boys "under her wing" and the young Mary grew up knowing them well.

Although in later life she was not a strict theosophist, she was interested in psychic matters and remained dedicated to Krishnamurti, writing several books about him, including *Krishnamurti*, a three-volume biography (1975-88), and *The Life and Death of Krishnamurti* (1990). Her determination to preserve Krishnamurti's good name extended to her writing a secret rebuttal of an Indian woman's derogatory account of his life.

Lutyens remembered Annie Besant as being the only person in her life for whom she felt any hero worship, and from her childhood encounters with theosophy she gained a respect for the beliefs of

others which stayed with her throughout her life.

She was born in London in 1908, the youngest child of the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and his wife Emily, the daughter of Edward Robert Lytton, Viceroy of India and first Earl of Lytton. At an early age Mary appreciated her vivid imagination and was never bored with her own company. She was naturally secretive, her motto aged 10 was "Know all but be known of none", and she later wrote in her autobiography *To Be Young* (1959) that she aimed to cultivate a deliberate hardness. This was not however apparent when she fell in love with Krishnamurti's brother Nitya and was much hurt when he seemed to ignore her.

Taking her younger children, including Mary, with her, Emily Lutyens travelled to both India and Australia many times with Krishnamurti, who was proclaimed in 1925 by Besant to be "the coming Messiah". Edwin Lutyens was not a theosophist but was in India every winter watching his city, New Delhi, being built. Mary Lutyens recalled being proud of her father and his work, but she did not have a close relationship with him, although she looked very like him. He loved gaiety and so hated the idea of any silence at mealtimes that he designed

a large round blackboard top for the dining table, so that noughts and crosses could be played if the conversation became sticky.

In 1930 Mary Lutyens married Anthony Sewell. The marriage was unhappy from the start as she was in love with her brother, who came with them on the honeymoon. The marriage was dissolved in 1945 and Sewell subsequently died. They had one daughter. In 1945 Lutyens married the art historian J.G. Links, whom she had met through her brother Robert during the Second World War and to whom she remained very happily married. She looked on Links as her rescuer from what had been a rather rickety life and said, "He made me nice again." She objected to their first honeymoon spent on a troopship to New York and so they went on to Venice, a city about which they both became passionate.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s Mary Lutyens had written many novels, among which were *Forthcoming Marriages* (1933), *Perchance to Dream* (1935), *Rose and Thorn* (1936) and *So Near to Heaven* (1943). She went on to write many books, including *Effie in Venice* (1965), a collection of unpublished letters from Effie Ruskin written between 1849 and 1852. *Lady Lytton's Court Diary*

(1961), *Milla and the Ruskins* (1967), *The Ruskins and the Grays* (1972), *The Lyttons in India* (1979) and a biography of her father, *Edwin Lutyens* (1980).

Under the pseudonym Esther Wyndham she wrote numerous serials, including *Black Prince*, a romance for Mills and Boon. (A romance she submitted recently was rejected for being "too middle-class".) She was also an agony aunt and a contributor to the *TLS*, *Apollo*, *Royalty Digest* and the *Corahill*. Her last book was a privately printed history of the Lyttons and the Lutyens families. Her first books were published by John Murray and she became a family friend of the Murrys, her later books also being published by them. She was very helpful not only during the Edwin Lutyens exhibition at the Hayward Gallery in London in 1985 but also during a recently made television programme on Lutyens in which she appears as a voiceover, having refused to appear in person.

Her research was meticulous; she listened to all Krishnamurti's lectures on tape and she had an original, rather lateral way of looking at things, seeing Ruskin and Effie's relationship differently from other writers. Although her self-discipline and the way she correct-

ed people's grammar could be intimidating, she had a lively twinkle and was good company. She was insatiably curious about everything and was particularly intrigued about people's sex lives, asking very direct questions.

She and her husband Jo Links were very supportive of each other's work. She wrote everything in bed in pencil in an exercise book and he typed all her manuscripts, being the practical one in the marriage - and the only person who could read her handwriting. Together, until his death in 1987, they created a strong partnership and unit, and from this core they were known for their generosity to others. Mary had a particularly large circle of friends and was a great letter-writer; they had both led very social lives and had entertained many people at their house in Sussex.

She was famous for her dry martinis and her elegance and, although unmusical, danced alone to Cole Porter for exercise.

SARAH ANDERSON

Mary Lutyens, writer: born London 31 July 1908; married 1930 Anthony Sewell (one daughter); marriage dissolved (1945); 1945 J.G. Links (died 1997); died London 9 April 1999.

## Admiral Sir William Pillar

NAVAL CAREERS class themselves largely according to whether the individual joined the Navy before, during or after the Second World War.

Lord Lewin fell - just - into the first group. William Pillar firmly into the second: the former had a great influence on the career of the latter. As one of the planners behind AFO 1/56 (the first Admiralty Fleet Order of 1956), Lewin was an architect of the new officer structure which perforce divided them all into "wet" and "dry" lists: would the executive officers exercise command at sea again or, however distinguished or promising, would the rest of their service be ashore? The seaman branch saw several deserving careers curtailed. The old specialist branches - Supply, Engineering, Electrical, for example - saw unexpected career prospects.

Now all shore appointments were

open to the right men. The emphasis shifted from the branch to the service as a whole. Sir Peter White, the Chief Naval Supply and Secretariat Officer, was the first specialist to reach the Admiralty Board. Pillar was not far behind him. His career prospered because, like Terry Lewin, he liked his people in the old naval sense, and they returned his confidence; he was one of those Williams who are inevitably Bill, knighted or not. He was a classic example of the naval officer who was almost incidentally an engineer.

Pillar was born in 1924 and joined the Navy as a Cadet (CE) in 1942. He qualified at the Naval Engineering Colleges at Keyham, Devonport, and Manadon, Plymouth, winning the King's Sword when he passed out. He did his sea time as a midshipman, and then as a junior engine-room watch-keeper (1946-

48) in the old *Illustrious*, by then the Home Fleet trials and training carrier. Two years back at Manadon (*Thunderer*) on the staff and two more as Engineer Officer of *Alert*, the yacht turned despatch vessel of the Commander-in-Chief Far East during the Korean War, preceded a three-year stint in the Dockyard at Gibraltar.

He was there when AFO 1/56 was published, went back to sea as Engineer in the Battle Class destroyer *Corunna* and in 1958 was promoted Commander and appointed to Lochinvar, the mine-sweeping base on the Forth. Shore service at Simonstown (1962-64) as Chief Staff Officer (Technical) to Commander-in-Chief South Atlantic was followed by a memorably agreeable flag-showing cruise around South America as Marine Engineer Officer in the cruiser *Tiger*, his last

sea time. His last job as a Commander was a classic promotion appointment - on the staff of the Director of Officers' Appointments in the MOD.

Sure enough, promotion to Captain came in 1966, and his four appointments in that rank all pointed onwards and upwards. He did the 1967 Senior Officers' War Course at Greenwich, still safe in naval hands, and was then the Controller's representative in Scotland and Northern Ireland. In 1970, a year at the Imperial Defence College (IDC) followed and he went on to be Assistant to the Director-General, Ships before returning to *Thunderer*, this time in command (1973-75).

It was now that his prowess benefited from the 1956 reforms. Promoted Rear-Admiral in 1976, he became Port Admiral, Rosyth, and then Assistant Chief of Fleet Sup-

port. In 1979 he was promoted Vice-Admiral and Chief of Naval Support, and appointed Fourth Sea Lord on a strong Board under Sir Henry Leach, with John Fieldhouse as Controller. And in 1980 he was appointed KCB and promoted Admiral on appointment in 1982 as Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies (formerly the IDC). He retired, now GBE, in 1984.

And then, to crown that career, there were five delightful and splendid if less onerous years as Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Jersey. He was the first engineer officer to hold that post, just as he had been the first to sit at the Board in 1979 and to superintend the IDC in 1982.

He encouraged generations of his old specialisation to believe and remember that they were essentially naval officers who had specialised,

and not the other way round. It sounds so obvious today, 40 years ago it was far from it to many, and heresy to some. He was modest about his success, for he showed no side to anyone he met. As Captain of *Thunderer*, he knew the name and the face of each of his juniors; there was never a trace of "You, there."

He was as keen on sailing as any naval officer; Commodore of the Royal Naval Sailing Association from 1980, a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron and an energetic supporter of the training ship *Royalist*.

His health had failed lately and he had to resort to a wheelchair. But he remained essentially the old Bill Pillar, and delighted in the presentation earlier this year of his portrait by Theo Ramos to the wardroom of HMS Sultan.

A. B. SAINSBURY



Pillar: no trace of 'You, there'

William Thomas Pillar, naval officer: born 24 February 1924; KCB 1980; Commandant, Royal College of Defence Studies 1982-83; GBE 1983; Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Jersey 1985-90; married 1946 Ursula Ransley (three sons, one daughter); died 18 March 1999.



## Oswaldo Guayasamín

OSWALDO GUAYASAMÍN was Ecuador's most celebrated and prolific artist, acclaimed by many critics as among the greatest painters and sculptors to have come out of Latin America this century. A close and admiring friend of President Fidel Castro of Cuba, he held robust left-wing views, and had no time for what he regarded as the Western notion that artistic creation is a personal thing. But even Ecuadorians who found his political beliefs abhorrent had come by the end of his life to regard Guayasamín as a national treasure.

He saw himself as a witness to and interpreter of the centuries-old anguish of the native peoples of the Americas, and of the "cruel, violent and dehumanised reality" that he saw all around him. The aim of his work, he said, was "to wound, to bite deep, to strike at the heart, to show what man is capable of doing to man".

To that end, he pioneered a style known as "indigenist expressionism", which depicted oppression and suffering in searingly uncompromising terms. "I paint the times that it has been my lot to live through: the wars, privations and suffering of the unjustly forgotten," he said just before his death.

Guayasamín had a vast output, completing about 7,000 works. But he left unfinished what he regarded as his masterpiece: La Capilla del Hombre ("The Chapel of Man"), a large, square brick building with a copper dome, which he began to construct next to his house in Quito, the mountain capital of Ecuador, in the late 1970s. He was still working on this project until just before his death, and had hoped to complete it in time for the new millennium.

The chapel is dedicated to "man in the Americas", whose story is told in a series of murals inside the building. The story is not a happy one: the agonised expressions and contorted limbs of his subjects reflect the dispossession and destruction of the indigenous peoples of the Americas, first by the Spanish conquerors and later by "American imperialism". Guayasamín regarded the United States as the main enemy of Latin America - though, ironically, Nelson Rockefeller was one of his earliest admirers and patrons, inviting him to visit the US in 1943, when he was 24.



The aim of Guayasamín's work was 'to wound, to strike at the heart'

Guayasamín also painted hundreds of portraits, including Fidel Castro (three times), King Juan Carlos of Spain and Princess Caroline of Monaco. But his vast, panoramic murals will probably be his best-remembered works. One of the most striking is in the debating chamber of the Ecuadorian congress building in Quito. It caused a diplomatic incident when it was unveiled in 1988: the US representative took exception to a grinning skull wearing a Nazi helmet emblazoned with the letters "CIA" and walked out.

He divided up his output into three sequences or periods. The first, which he entitled *Huacayán* (the Way of Sorrows in Quechua, the language of Ecuador's highland Indians), was begun in 1948, after Guayasamín had spent more than a year travelling all over Latin America. His style was heavily influ-

enced by the Mexican muralists, particularly José Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros, whom he had met in Mexico a few years earlier.

The second sequence, the Age of Wrath, which began in 1963, consists of 250 pictures dealing with the universal themes of war and inhumanity. The last, the Age of Tenderness, is more hopeful, depicting co-operation between peoples to build a better world.

Guayasamín was born in the poor La Tola district of Quito, the oldest of 10 children of an Indian father and mestiza mother who died young. His father, a carpenter who had to take up driving taxis and trucks to make ends meet, always opposed his son's determination to become a painter. With help from his mother, Oswaldo was able to get into the School of Fine Arts in Quito in 1932, finally graduating in painting and sculpture in 1941, and held his first individual exhibition in Quito the following year.

He first achieved international recognition in 1966 when he won the first prize in a competition for more than 30,000 artists from all over Latin America, Spain and Portugal. He used the prize money to travel to France, in the hope of seeing Picasso in Cannes. But Picasso refused to see him. Guayasamín told an interviewer shortly before his death that he bore Picasso a grudge for years after that, but had come to see that he was right not to allow important visitors to disturb his work.

In 1976 he set up the Guayasamín Foundation in Quito and donated to it his valuable collection of pre-Columbian and colonial art, as well as more than 250 of his own works. In 1994 Oswaldo Guayasamín was awarded a prize by Unesco in recognition of his work in defence of peace and human rights.

His eyesight began to fail in recent years, and he was in Baltimore for treatment when he suffered a heart attack and died.

COLIN HARDING

Oswaldo Aparicio Guayasamín Calero, artist, born Quito 6 July 1919; married 1939 Marija Monteverdi (two sons, two daughters); 1957 Luce Depéron (three daughters); third Helene Favre; died Baltimore, Maryland 10 March 1999

## PHILOSOPHICAL NOTES

MARTIN COHEN

### He who 'puts his hands over his ears'

SURPRISINGLY LARGE numbers of people seem able to proclaim, counsel, insist on, various forms of lofty indifference to the refugee situation in Albania. But then, others are able, not merely to turn their backs on such a spectacle, but, on the contrary, to revel in it. It is the many, the "ordinary" people, who are there watching and celebrating as the military carry out their grim ritual of "cleansing" the towns and villages.

Amongst the ranks of the cheering crowds, alongside the ignorant, the easily led and the uneducated, you will find the intellectuals. Academic philosophers were midwives at the rebirth of Serbian nationalism and eager supporters of the Bosnian war. It is now the detailed strategies of the late Professor Cubrilovic of Belgrade University, of "brute force" and deniable atrocity, that are the hidden hand guiding the destruction.

For, although it is true you will never find a philosopher with his hands stained with blood, you will find many on the sidelines puffing vigorously with the bellows of philosophical theory at the flames, decrying other people's notions of pity and compassion in favour of some abstraction or other. So it is now with the philosophers of Serbia. So it was with the early Fascists, reared not just on promises of power and position, but also on Giovanni

Gentile's "neo-Hegelian" metaphysical notions of "identity". Take Nietzsche, for example. Amongst philosophers, Nietzsche is celebrated for ridiculing the notion of "the good", seeing in it common cause made with "everything weak, sick, ill-constituted, suffering from itself, all that which ought to perish" - the "law of selection" crossed. Nietzsche's intention, declaring himself the "first immoralist", was to "revalue" all values, starting with the unmasking of Christianity and literally making "good" "bad". His task, although never completed, offered a picture the Superman, or "Übermensch", who "transcends" history; untrammelled by notions of "justice" or "pity", he is bound by no law other than that of his own desire.

So, in the radio programme *The Moral Maze* the other week, the hired sophists harangued their audience with arguments purporting to prove that any distinction between "good" and "evil" was at most subjective and unreliable, and, at worst, plain nonsense.

But let us accept, for a moment, that some people are evil, or at least do evil things. Then, either people are inherently evil, or they are basically good but something in the world is corrupting them. Mencius, the idealistic Confucian philosopher, held the latter view, as did Plato, who therefore made education the keystone of his philosophy.

Saintly experts, such as Augustine, saw human life as essentially a rather unpleasant sort of moral trial, with the unpleasantness a necessary part of achieving saintliness. Augustine even believed, rather negatively for modern taste, that mankind was a "mass of corruption and sin proceeding inevitably towards death". And, to make matters worse, when we reach our inevitable destination, most of us are predestined to rot in hell rather than go to heaven.

At least, for the French romantics, in the untutored heart of "l'homme sauvage" is already the central humanising characteristic: pity, and concern for others. It is there because it is there in the animals too. Rousseau notes that horses avoid trampling living creatures for similar reasons, and that no animal ever passes "the corpse of a creature of its own species without distress". Rousseau tells us that, even if it were true that pity is "no more than a feeling that puts us in the place of the sufferer", it is still the natural sentiment that ultimately allows the preservation of the species.

It is only the philosopher, who "puts his hands over his ears and argues a little with himself" whilst another is murdered outside their window.

Martin Cohen is the editor of *The Philosopher*

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

**POWELL:** Julian Francis, died peacefully on 8 April 1999, under the loving care of St Michael Sobell House, Oxford, following a very long and courageous fight against cancer. Much loved by his family, wife Annette, children Sophie, Luke and William, parents Ann and Oliver, sister and brother, Jacqueline and Peter, and many friends and colleagues. Funeral at St John's Church, Carterton, Oxfordshire, 2pm, Wednesday 14 April. Family flowers only, donations to the Julian Powell Memorial Fund in aid of the King's School, Witney.

**Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS** (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). **OTHER Gazette announcements** (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages, which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000. The Obituaries e-mail address is [obituaries@the-independent.co.uk](mailto:obituaries@the-independent.co.uk)

#### BIRTHDAYS

Miss Audrey Barker, writer, 81; Mr Stephen Byers MP, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, 46; Air Vice-Marshal Sir Bernard Chacksfield, 86; Mr Frank Chamberlain, former chairman, Test and County Cricket Board, 74; The Hon Alan Clark MP, 71; The Right Rev Roderic Coote, former Bishop of Colchester, 84; Mr Liam Cosgrave, former leader of the Fine Gael party, 79; Lord Davidson, a former Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 70; Mr Peter Davidson, actor, 48; Mr Stanley Doreen, film director and producer, 75; Mr Edward Fox, actor, 62; Professor Albert Halsey, sociologist, 76; Sir Jeremiah Harman, High Court judge, 69; Air Marshal Sir Kenneth Hay, former Deputy Chief of Defence Staff, Ministry of Defence, 64; Mr Seamus Heaney, poet, 60; Sir Peter Hepp, former ambassador to Brazil, 64; Mr Garry Kasparov, chess player, 36; Mr Howard Keel, singer and actor, 80; Mr Jojo O'Neill, racehorse trainer, 47; Dame Margaret Price, operatic singer, 58; Sir Stephen Roberts, former chairman, Milk Marketing Board, 84; Miss Barbara Roche MP, Parliament Under-Secretary, Trade and Industry, 45; Mr John Swinney MP, 35; Lord Wedderburn of Charlton, Professor Emeritus of Commercial Law, London School of Economics, 72; Miss Eudora Welby, novelist, 90; Sir John Weston, ambassador and UK Permanent Representative to Nato, 61; Lt-Gen Sir James Wilson, for-

mer chief executive, Tobacco Advisory Council, 78.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

**Births:** Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, statesman, 1593; Thomas Jefferson, third US president, 1743; Joseph Bramah, locksmith and inventor, 1748; Frédéric-César David, composer, 1810; Josephine Elizabeth Butler (née Grey), social reformer, 1828; Frank Winfield Woolworth, chain-store pioneer, 1852; Marshal of the RAF Sir Arthur Harris, wartime chief of Bomber Command, 1892; John Gerard Braine, novelist, 1922.

**Deaths:** Boris Feodorovich Godunov, Russian Tsar, 1605; Jean de La Fontaine, poet and writer of fables, 1695; Sir William Quiller Orchardson, painter, 1910; James Buchanan Brady ("Diamond Jim"), financier, 1917; Hugh Cecil Lowther, fifth Earl of Londesdale, sportsman, 1944.

On this day: The Edict of Nantes, giving Huguenots equal rights with Catholics, was issued by Henry IV of France, 1598; the Royal Military Academy was established at Woolwich, 1741; The Messiah by George Frederick Handel, was first performed, Dublin, 1742; the Catholic Emancipation Act was passed in Britain, 1829; the Amritsar Massacre occurred after British soldiers fired on nationalist rioters in India, 1919.

Today is the Feast Day of Saints Agathone, Carpus, and

Papylus, St Guinech, St Hermenegild, St Martin I, pope and St Martinus or Mars.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Rebecca Drew, "North and South: Van Gogh in the South of France", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: David Hockney, "Pre-Raphaelite Musical Instruments and Paintings", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Richard Humphreys, "Masks and Masques in British Art 1550-1650", 1pm. British Museum: Carolyn Perry, "Decorative Islamic Pen-boxes", 1.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Jonathan Stephenson, "How 'Dearest Heart' Watched Mr Lilly: the portrait painting techniques of Sir Peter Lely (1618-80)", 1.10pm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Gerald Wakefield, "The Internet and Electronic Commerce: electronic banking", 5.30pm.

#### DINNERS

Institute of Physics: Professor Sir Gareth Roberts, President of the Institute of Physics, presided at a dinner for representatives of the Institute of Physics, held yesterday at the Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester. Dr Herman Hauser of Amadeus Capital Partners was the speaker.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, Patron, World Cooks' Tour for Hunger, attends a lunch at the Glasgow Hilton, as President, the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, attends the Annual Conference of Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland, Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow, and attends the East Ayrshire Carers Centre Information Day, Kilmarnock, and as President, Save the Children Fund, attends a reception to launch Corporate Fundraising in Scotland at the City Chambers, Glasgow. The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, SeeAbility, opens Barclay House (residential housing for visually impaired young adults), Seaford, East Sussex, as part of the bicentenary celebrations of the Royal School for the Blind, and opens the new building at the Downs School for children with special needs, Eastbourne. East Sussex Princess Alexandra visits Bethlem Royal Hospital, Beckenham, Kent, and sees the new facility for Crofton residents, and as President the British Red Cross Society visits the British Red Cross Shop, 129 High Street, London SE20.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; Nimrod Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

## Second trial was an abuse of process

### TUESDAY LAW REPORT

13 APRIL 1999

Regina v Piggott and another

Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Waller, Mr Justice Timothy Walker and the Recorder of London) 18 March 1999

WHERE THE prosecution had been allowed to amend an indictment after the close of their case in circumstances where a submission of no case to answer on the original indictment would have succeeded, a retrial, ordered because evidence inadmissible on the amended indictment had already been heard by the jury, was an abuse of process and should have been halted.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeals of Luke Anthony Piggott and Jeffrey Simon Litvin against their convictions of conspiracy to steal, and Litvin's conviction of nine counts of handling stolen goods.

The appellants and their co-accused were originally charged in an indictment containing a single count of conspiracy to steal. At the close of the prosecution case a submission of no case to answer was made on behalf of the defendants. The judge directed a not guilty verdict in respect of the two co-accused, but allowed amendments to the indictment in respect of the appellants, which amounted to the reinstatement of counts which had previously been withdrawn.

The judge discharged the jury and ordered a retrial, because evidence which would be inadmissible in the case on the amended indictment had already been adduced. He approached the matter by reference to section 5(1) of the Indictments Act 1915, and also placed reliance on section 5(5) of the Act.

The appellants were re-arraigned on the amended indictment and were ultimately convicted of conspiracy to steal. Litvin was also convicted of nine counts of handling stolen goods.

The appellants appealed against their convictions, submitting that it was unfair that the Crown had been able to conduct their case to its close on one basis, and then had been allowed to amend it at such a late stage.

Keith Hotten (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for Piggott; Zoe Smith (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for Litvin; Justin Wigoder (Crown Prosecution Service) for the Crown.

Lord Justice Waller said that section 5(5) of the Indictments Act 1915 contemplated amendments only at a very early stage of proceedings at which a decision might be taken to order a separate trial or to postpone a trial which had not in effect started.

Whilst postponement or discharge at a very early stage might not be unfair, it was difficult to contemplate that postponement or discharge of a jury could take place at the end of the Crown's case without being so.

To allow amendments at the stage where they had been allowed in the present case

after a trial lasting 10 days, and which could only be proceeded with by ordering a retrial which would traverse the same ground as the first trial, but on counts which the appellants were entitled to think had been withdrawn, had caused an injustice to the appellants.

Although there was a material distinction between the situation in the instant case and that in a case where a plea of either *autrefois convict* or *autrefois acquit* was applicable, if the submission of no case to answer had not been made in the present case and the matter had been allowed to be decided by the jury, the jury would have had to acquit the appellants on the conspiracy as it was originally charged.

In that instance, on any view, an attempt by the Crown to resurrect substantive offences and even narrower conspiracies would have been bound to fail. No one would suggest that if the amendments had not been sought, and if the defence had been entitled to succeed on a submission of no case to answer, that the Crown would have been entitled to have the jury discharged instead of a verdict of not guilty being entered, simply so that they could mount a second case.

The judge in the second trial had been entitled to conclude that that trial was an abuse of process, and should therefore have exercised his discretion to halt it. In those circumstances, having concluded that the second trial should never have taken place, the court was bound to conclude also that the convictions were unsafe and to quash them.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

## CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

TODAY I am reviewing John Nunn's *Chess Puzzle Book* (Gambit, £13.99). Nunn is one of the best tacticians on the planet and this, his "first venture into the field of chess puzzle books", is one that he himself and I would enjoy.

Two initial sets of puzzles straddle a chapter entitled "Find the Wrong Move" in which each diagram precedes a catastrophic blunder perpetrated by a strong player, which the reader has to identify in advance. The fourth chapter too is innovative: a selection from the great tournament at Karlsbad 1911, set in the context of how their play compares to today's players.

For all the 202 positions in these four chapters, Nunn provides hints in a separate section. Naturally, though, this facility is not available for the final section of eight self-assessment tests of six positions each for a grand total of 250 puzzles in the 208 pages.

While the organisation is most interesting, it is the level of difficulty that marks Nunn's book out. In the introduction he

explains that he's "rated the positions on a scale from 1 to 5... Only those rated 1 and 2 are suitable to solve on a train: the rest should be set up on a board". This is tremendous stuff, particularly for the ambitious club or stronger player who is prepared to devote sufficient time to it, but not for the faint-hearted.

Here is a nice example of Nunn's level 2:



In Spirov vs Najdorf Lodz, 1932, Black won with 1... Qc5!! when:

a) 1 f2 Bxc6 Bxc6 + 3 Kf1 Rd1 +! 4 Qxd1 e2 + and mates.  
b) White tried 2 Ba3, resigning after Rd2 3 Bxc6 Bxc6 + 4 Kf1 Rxe2 5 bxc5 Rg2 + 6 Kf1 e2 +.

READERS HAVE now collected some new collective nouns... A shelf of spinsters (Jennifer Moore-Blunt); a doorstep of journalists (T.M. O'Grady); a cadabra of conjurers (Norah Smith); a Plathora of poets (Peter Thomas); a fauna of sycophants (Bruce Birchall); a quota of plagiarists (J.R. Gore); a jostle of joggers (Joan Vinicombe); a seethe of rail travellers (Magdy Higgins); a bay of vicars (John Andrews); a carton of Sydneys (Susan Tomes).

A rustle of horse-thieves (Octavia Leigh); a shirliness of racehorses (Paul Turner); a protestation of fox-lovers (Sue Johnson); a concatenation of cat-lovers (Collin O'Hare); a posse of pussies (S.J.); a Caribbean of caribou (B.B.); a humph of sceptics (Luella Palmer); an ammm of doctors, an aaahh of dentists (Eric Dunkley); a bah bah deo of jazz singers (Alex).

A lather of TV soaps (Andrew Duncan); a moon of cheeses (Eric Bridgstock); an indifference of waiters (John O'Byrne); an obstruction of

## CREATIVITY

LOKI

bureaucrats (A.D.); a hamper of Planning Officers; a folly of architects (Pe.T.); a junket of MEPs (J.A.); a trough of EU commissioners (John Terris); a grouse of curmudgeons (Brendan J. O'Byrne); a conglomeration of depressives (Colin Archer); a detachment of the autistic (S.T.); a dearth of absentees (M.H.).

A one-I-Made-Earlier of TV cooks, a wife's-away of adult videos (Pa.T.); a gwynne of oranges, a labyrinth of maize (Mike Gifford); a parthenon of columnists (B. J. O'B.); a perplexity of logas (B.B.); a slither of salesmen, a bumshow of builders (Tom Gaunt); a horde of misers (M.H.); a nerd of Trekkies (Martin Brown); a whoround of masochists (C.A.); a gubble of gourmands (J.V.); a snip of castrati (J.T.).

A plummet of sky-divers (Pe.T.); a plunge of deep sea divers (P. Cation); a cast of plasterers, a shop of informers (Alan Brooker); a culture of bacteriologists (Mary Brookert); a quiescence of yes-men (Matthew White); a corps of applegrowers, a breadth of

visionaries (George H. Hudd). A portmanteau of harbour-masters, a contentment of campers (C.O.H.); an irritation of e-mails (Michael Bryant-Mole); an annoyance of bunched-up buses (A.D.); an aggravation of cold callers, a vexation of double-glazing reps (Shirley Edmundson); a drive-you-potty of political candidates, a Go Yahweh! of Jehovah's Witnesses (Ella O'Key).

Jennifer Moore-Blunt, Luella Palmer and George Hudd each win a copy of the *Chambers Dictionary of Quotations*. John Lamper wonders: with chess now to be classified as a sport, what misdemeanours might lead to a red card in various mind games? Ideas to Loki, e-mail: [Valhalla@btinternet.com](mailto:Valhalla@btinternet.com). Or write to Creativity, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL, closing date 22 April. Results and three more Chambers prizes will be announced on 27 April. Next week's tester, appropriate forms of transport.

## WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

pan-fried, adj.

THE FOOD industry always tries to pull a fast one. The latest attempt to blur the issue - similar to oven-baked - is pan-fried, demolished by Nigella Lawson in the admirable *How To Eat*.

"I object to the term pan-fried because what are you going to fry something in, if not a pan? But the thing about pan-fried is not

of us eats any more: pan-fried is modern, light, healthy... But food, whether fried or pan-fried, is cooked in the same way. It's a brilliant wheeze."

If one doubts the poetry of frying, Johnson quotes Waller: "spices and gums about them melting fry / And, phenix like, in that rich nest they die".





The red countess: in prison she kept up her standards of glamour with lipstick made from Vaseline and red marker pens

Kalpesh Lathigra

# Lovelorn, loaded, alone

When Countess Valentina Artsrunik's lover was convicted in America of murder and jewel theft, it seemed she had nowhere to turn. Except to her ex-husbands, of course. And Max Clifford. By Steve Crawshaw

A Bulgarian-born Russian society beauty who travels on a French passport and lives in a Knightsbridge apartment with her ex-husband, a wealthy Nigerian-born Armenian count. A millionaire's bodyguard, who becomes the countess's lover after meeting her one night in the bar of a Palm Beach hotel. A jeweller is murdered in the American south: the bodyguard is convicted of murder and robbery; the countess is also jailed while facing related charges but is later acquitted. The countess hopes to sue the court for wrongful arrest, and seeks to mount an appeal against her lover's conviction, claiming that this is all a set-up and a terrible injustice.

The cast of characters and storyline might have been dreamed up by John Grisham, emperor of the outlandish thriller plot – and then discarded as an exoticism too far. It comes as no surprise to find that Hollywood agents are beating a path to Countess Valentina Artsrunik's door for her to tell her tale and that of her boyfriend, 48-year-old Dorian Lester, and of the mysterious death of George Moody in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Her door is up a few flights of stairs in Knightsbridge, just around the corner from Harrods and from all the designer shops that have been her habitat for many years. Admire the collection of hats in the hallway, and she is casually dismissive. "This is just for everyday use. I've got 300 upstairs." (At around £300 a time, she later

reveals.) That's along with the eight fur coats and the wardrobes full of couture dresses and...

Enough. All of this now means nothing to her, she says. "They're just things." She hopes to organise an auction of some of the hats and dresses and furs. This week, she opened a Defence of Dorian Lester Fund, to raise money for legal fees.

The 42-year-old countess has just returned from the United States, where she was acquitted on charges of larceny. The prosecution's case was that Lester killed George Moody and that Artsrunik was involved in the robbery of \$40,000 (£25,000) worth of gems. Artsrunik spent five months in custody before being released on bail.

Artsrunik and Lester were due to fly to London to start their new lives together, when they were arrested four days after the murder in September 1997. According to the prosecution, Lester ("fameless and wealthy") killed Moody to gain money to buy her presents.

She suggests that such money was chickenfeed, given her spending habits. "The limit on one of my credit cards alone was £50,000. A month." The ruby and diamond earrings that she is wearing have alone, she says, been valued on Bond Street at £20,000.

The way Artsrunik tells it, her spending habits – from the funds supplied to her by ex-husbands and the other men who have passed through her life – should have provided her and Lester with the perfect alibi. During the hours before, during and

after the murder, her credit card was in non-stop use – buying antiques, paying for meals, buying clothes. In addition, "There was no material evidence – no blood, no DNA, nothing."

Four days after the murder, a Swat anti-terrorist team ambushed the couple. "They shouted: 'Police! Down!' Dorian likes to play practical jokes, and I thought it was a joke he had set up. I started laughing. I stopped when they laid me down

*'The police shouted "Down!" I thought it was a joke Dorian had set up. I started laughing. I stopped when they laid me down and handcuffed me'*

and handcuffed me."

Both Lester and Artsrunik were, in their different ways, part of an exceptionally beau monde. Lester worked for media billionaire John Kluge, who was described as "formerly the world's richest man", and later continued to work for his estranged wife, former belly-dancer Patricia Kluge. As for Countess Valentina, who still speaks with the soft remnants of a Russian accent – she had connections everywhere. "I don't deny I've had a magical life."

She chose her first husband, Maurice, a Frenchman three decades older than her, because he could give the teenage Valentina a passport out of Communist Bulgaria. Then came a retired English army officer, also 30 years older, who bought her a house in France. Then came Edward Artsrunik, Armenian count and international insurance broker. Then came David Conway, a shipping heir she came upon (as one does) in a St Moritz hotel. (She had gone on holiday to St Moritz with the nanny and her young son – to escape from money problems.) And finally, Lester.

Everything about her is larger than life. She says that she is fond of red. But you could guess that, without being told. She is elegantly dressed in shades of red from top to toe; the living-room walls are red; the dining-room walls are red. Even in difficult circumstances, she retains her loyalty to keeping some would-be glamour. In prison ("a cross between boarding school and an East European hospital"), she says she became famous for her home-made lipstick – Vaseline and red-coloured markers together. She says with a Diana-like, knowing innocence: "I have had a good life."

Nor does she seem to quarrel with her men definitively. Edward Artsrunik was scathing of her at the time of their breakup, describing her as "a terrible social climber"; but he now lives almost amiably with her in the same apartment, together with their elder son. She describes David Conway, father of her two younger children, as "my best friend – he doesn't

like publicity, but he was ready to testify on Dorian's behalf."

Meanwhile, she worries that all the glamour obscures what she sees as the unjustified suffering that her lover is now going through. She fondly recounts his romantic gestures: the simple bracelet that she is wearing, which he made from the threads of regulation-blue prison sheets and smuggled out, with a lock of his hair attached. (Not all of his gifts to her were so simple: she wears the bracelet on the same hand as the sapphire-studded diamond and platinum ring that she also received from him.)

She has had meetings with the publicity supremo Max Clifford ("a very nice man") about the possibility of handling her case. She has been invited to Nassau for discussions about making a Hollywood movie. But she still seems slightly fazed by finding herself in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons. "It'll always be a shadow on my name."

She and her supporting cast of former partners have already spent around \$1m on her own legal costs. Now, she is determined to get Lester free, too.

"Few people would sympathise with me, ensconced in a Knightsbridge flat. I don't project the image of a victim... I find it disgraceful to peddle my life. But it's something I have to do. Nobody cares about an obscure Virginian, after all." Her struggle seems set to go on. "I don't want to go into any psychoanalysis. I don't fall apart. But we were taught to fight back. If it takes the rest of my life, I'll be locked into a fight."

## THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

41. LAUNDROMATS  
BY JOSEPH GALLIVAN

"FOR FAVOR, no zapatos en las secundarias" (Please do not put sneakers in the dryers). Sign at Laundromax, Miami Beach.

What if they built a laundromat for the 21st century. Would you go? Would you go if you knew they had a bank of 55 dryers down one side? Washers in three sizes – double loaders, giant, and super giant, the latter big enough to contain a nuclear family? A children's play area with slide and tricycles, large plastic tables for fluff'n'folding in every aisle, and clean chrome baskets with hanger rails so you can roll your wash around without fear of shedding items?

Well they have, and I found it in Florida. The fact that it's huge and lit like a car showroom is only part of the attraction. Everything has been done to simplify washing. Cash has been banished. There's no fumbling for coins here – the washers, dryers and soap machines only accept pre-paid smart cards. Then there's the staff. Under the strip lights that burn until 11 every night, the young "assistants" wear co-ordinated tracksuit tops and busy themselves with service washes. They smile. They offer help. I've even seen them run to the garage for a packet of cigarettes for a pensioner – so long as she didn't try and smoke inside.

Laundromats, like most services for the underclass, normally exude a stygian chic. They are staffed by old dears like Dot from *EastEnders*, who make your clothes run and smell of fags, and filled with malfunctioning machines – change-makers that regurgitate bank notes, washers with pools of black water beneath them ready for you to drop something, dryers blackened with chewing gum. They remind you you're a loser for not owning a washing machine, a low-caste status akin to being a pedestrian.

But at Laundromax there are several rows of bucket seats, perfect for watching the eight separately programmed televisions that hang above the washers. If you are worried about missing an instalment of your favourite telenovela or car-chase compilation programme, just ask for the universal remote control. Neighbours exchange smiles and nods at each other's viewing habits – a far cry from the howling that usually accompanies public channel surfing. Truly this is a place with liberty and justice, and television, for all. This is better than staying in. Laundromax makes people nice. A woolen-hatted homie shares his soap with a stranger. A Cuban toddler walks all over someone's sheets and is greeted with indulgent smiles.

Now I'm back in Brooklyn, things are noticeably less glamorous. There are so many laundromats here, they have to compete – not with better service, but different service. One gives free soap on Tuesdays. Another serves free coffee, another orders in pizza.

It's all a bit crummy, serving only to highlight the fast-track ideology of Laundromax. There,

you don't just go to get your skivvies greyed. You go for a dip in the future.



## Call this a holiday? Purgatory, more like

What to do in the vacation? Revise for upcoming finals? Not likely. It's time to chill out (or run for your life). By Cayte Williams



ROBBIE  
studying  
economics



LEONA  
was studying  
maths



DAVID  
studying  
management



IAN  
studying  
geography



TASH  
studying  
management



ALASTAIR  
studying  
management



ROSIE  
studying  
French

STRESS IS mounting. There are four weeks of studying time available before Finals begin, and then it's all over. What's more, it's vacation time. What to do? Take advantage of the free time and get stuck into some serious revision? Or sneak back home to escape reality?

Funnily enough, almost all of them went for the second option. The exceptions were Ian, Leona and David. Ian – whose family only live in Leeds, on the other side of Snake Pass – decided to hang around in Manchester to enjoy a little rest and recuperation from his student clubbing society.

Leona, on the other hand, escaped to Cornwall, where she spent a week being told by her cousins how much she'd grown. Worse, the cousins have children.

"I'm not really the family type,"

she says. "I remember I had to babysit when I was 14 or 15 and I hated it because children irritate me. They're so demanding."

Somehow the experience didn't seem all that different to that of sharing a student house in Manchester with four blokes.

"Sometimes we do all get on," she says glumly, "but when people get stressed everything falls apart. There's definitely a boy-versus-girl thing going on, and I'm starting to wonder if this is what it's going to be like for the rest of my life. Is this what men are all like?"

Still, there's hope. "All my friends at home are blokes," she says. "Maybe you have to live with them to know them. I recently had a really nice weekend in Leeds with my ex-boyfriend. He's lovely. And most of the boys at home are lovely; too,

### THIS STUDENT LIFE



EASTER BREAK,  
WEEK 14 AT THE  
MANCHESTER  
STUDENT HOUSE

"This Easter all my friends came back home and were all so proud of their new relationships at college. The trouble is I'm too cynical. I can't

imagine I would ever meet anyone who wouldn't turn out to be nasty."

So what's wrong with the male sex? "They take themselves too seriously," says Leona. "I mean, the boys in the house have all been really good about the club nights they organise. They could easily have stepped on each others' toes with that. But they go too far, constantly name-dropping with things like 'My brother's friend DJ-ed in this place or that place'. It's so petty. They're like little kids really."

Then there's the milk. "They all share the fridge downstairs," she explains wearily, "and somebody will borrow someone else's milk and leave it out. The person whose milk it is will ask who used it and nobody will own up. Even when I've seen who did it, they still lie..."

So is there any difference

between men and children? "At the end of the day they're really lovely," she says of the boys, "but sometimes they drive me mad. I hate arguing more than anything. Girls can step back and look at the situation, but boys can't see anything from anyone else's point of view."

Recently, they sprang on her in the shower. "They said they were sorry," she explains, "but they just don't get it. They don't understand how that might have upset me at all."

When Ian argues he'll say anything personal to keep the argument going," she continues, "and he doesn't realise how upsetting that is."

Meanwhile, David's sloping off to the Far East. "I'm going to Hong Kong then Burma for three weeks to see some of my relatives," says the most amenable lad in the house. "My dad's going, too, and he hasn't

been in seven years. My mum's a doctor out in Hong Kong."

He's particularly looking forward to getting drenched during the Burmese New Year celebrations. "They have this massive water festival which is a completely mental fight," explains David.

"People go around in trucks and stop at each house where they fire hose pipes and throw water bombs. It's a real laugh."

"I'm looking forward to getting out of Manchester because the weather's been shit," he says, "even though I know I should really be working." Then there are the family matters, such as David's divorced parents who haven't seen each other for years. So how do they get on?

"No comment," says David. Maybe it's a boy versus girl thing.







Ever wondered about that weird noise in the Beach Boys' 'Good Vibrations', in the soundtrack of Hitchcock's *Spellbound* and what seems like every Fifties sci-fi movie? It's the sound of the theremin, the world's first electronic instrument. By Robert Webb

# Wooooooo-eeeeeeeeee!

In 1945, Alfred Hitchcock was searching for a new sound. His Freudian thriller, *Spellbound*, required a score that would really raise goosebumps. Hitchcock's composer, Miklos Rozsa, suggested using the theremin. Hitchcock agreed to give it a go although, Rozsa recalled later, he wasn't exactly sure if you "ate it or took it for headaches". In fact, the theremin had been around for 25 years and could lay claim as the earliest viable electronic musical instrument. Its ethereal wail was perfect for the psychotic terror that seeped through the film.

The theremin was named after its inventor, Leon Theremin, born in Russia in 1896. The leading authority on both man and machine is Albert Ginsky. "He was an extraordinary inventor," says Ginsky. "He supported the Bolsheviks in 1917 and after the Revolution was in Leningrad working on surveillance equipment and pioneering an early form of television. The instrument that bears his name was developed in 1920 while he was experimenting with radio apparatus to measure the dielectric constant of gases."

This seems as improbable as Adolphe Sax stumbling across the saxophone whilst plumbing in a U-bend, but no less sensational is the invention itself. It resembles no more than a plain box of coils and wires with a couple of aerials protruding. Operation is quite simple, but fiendishly difficult to master. Ginsky explains: "Two high-frequency oscillators generate an identical note beyond the reach of human hearing. The theremin allows the natural body capacitance of the hands to control electrical fields in the air between the antennae."

Astonishingly, the theremin is unique as the only musical instrument played with no actual physical contact. With one hand controlling the pitch, and the other the volume, the chaotic whines and groans can be modulated to produce discrete musical pitches. Played proficiently, the sound is not unlike the human voice, a kind of ghost in the machine. Imagine listening to the *Star Trek* theme on shortwave radio.

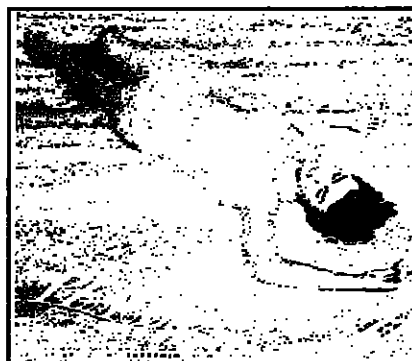
Leon Theremin unsurprisingly attracted the attention of the KGB and his invention was classified as top secret. To escape the restrictions on his work, he fled Russia for the United States in 1927. "In America it was announced as a magical device which heralded a new era in electronic music," says Ginsky. RCA were quick to see the novelty value and manufactured 500, backed by a fierce publicity campaign. Many people were unsure what to make of the new gadget. Even more baffling was how to play it. "I almost don't like to say this, but it's really the most difficult musical instrument in the world to play," admits Ginsky.

At home, the untutored player simply had to imagine the notes and grope around in the air, hoping for the best. "Most people found it impossible, managing little more than a police-siren squeal. So they gave up and left it to gather dust in the garage." Only a few budding players became skilled. One virtuoso was Samuel Hoffman, a New York chiropractor. The theremin became a trademark in the NBC band, for whom Hoffman, when he wasn't



Leon Theremin in 1927; below, some albums from the new collection

Lebrecht Collection



shaving corns, played the violin. It attracted his attention and before long Hoffman was transforming himself into Hal Hope, celebrated bandleader and theremin player.

For a while, Hoffman was famous in Manhattan dancehalls, where his orchestra was billed as the "casino in the air".

Eventually though, the theremin was just another gimmick: it failed to bring about the expected revolution in electronic music. "The anticipated technical developments just never happened," says Ginsky. "so people lost interest." Hoffman went back to his day job and, despondent,

Leon Theremin returned to the Soviet Union in 1938, where he was imprisoned for "un-Soviet activities".

When Hitchcock's composer phoned the Hollywood musicians' union in 1945 for someone to play his score, there was only one thereminist listed who could read

music: Dr Samuel J Hoffman. Hoffman's performance on *Spellbound* revived his thrilled cinema-goers. In 1947, he teamed up with British songwriter Harry Revel and full orchestra to record *Music Out Of The Moon*, the first in a series of 78s for Capital records, now the subject of a repackaged CD set. With selections entitled "Lunar Rhapsody", "Celestial Nocturne" and "Radar Blues", it presented music which, according to the sleeve notes, "can affect the sensitive mind in a way that is sometimes frightening... always fascinating".

It was followed by two more recordings in 1948 and 1950: *Music For Peace Of Mind* and *Perfume Set To Music*, with arrangements by Billy May and the carpet-slipper king of lounge music, Les Baxter. The theremin was back. Dr Hoffman's career took off: he remained in Hollywood and through the Fifties tangled spines on many classic sci-fi soundtracks, notably Bernard Herrmann's *The Day The Earth Stood Still*.

Twenty-one years after Hitchcock first took the theremin to the movies, Brian Wilson was also in Hollywood, recording one of pop's greatest three-and-a-half-minute songs to feature the theremin: the first being "I Just Wasn't Made For These Times". A vital contribution to an astonishing record, it quickly became a pet sound. The following year Captain Beefheart reportedly drafted in none other than Sam Hoffman to electricify his first album, *Safe As Milk*. The theremin, in various customised forms, has since provided a background hum for artists as diverse as Kraftwerk, Paul Weller and the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band. Jimmy Page has a special fondness for it, using it on Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love" and on the recent Page and Plant tour. Hawkwind's thereminist, it is rumoured, even fashioned an axe-shaped version to fit in with his local music scene. The ultimate air guitar, you might say.

A few models have even found their way into museums. This month, the Science Museum in London is staging *The Aetherphon*, a dramatised history of the instrument. The organiser, Geraint Thomas, is excited. "We were one of the first to show a practical interest in the theremin. Our player, Andrew Mackay, studied under Lydia Kavina, a niece of Leon Theremin and a skilled player in her own right."

And Leon Theremin himself? In the early Nineties, Albert Ginsky met him in New York, filming a documentary about his long and improbable life. "Most people assumed he was dead," recalls Ginsky. "In fact, he'd been working at Moscow University but was shunned because of his work for the KGB. Although he had played in Europe in the mid-Eighties, this was the first time he had been in the US since he left in 1938. It was a very moving occasion." In 1991, two years before his death at 97, Leon Theremin was publicly honoured as the godfather of electronic music. Without him, we would have had no good vibrations.

*Dr Hoffman and the Theremin* is available from Basta Records/Direct Distribution. Albert Ginsky's biography of *The Theremin, Out of the Air* will be published next year. *The Aetherphon* is on at the Science Museum, London, 17 and 18 April.

## PLUG AND PLAY: AN ELECTRONIC HALL OF FAME

**Ondes Martenot**  
Invented in 1928, it was the first successful electronic instrument that is still regularly used by orchestras today. Its primitive tones were first harnessed by Edgar Varèse, the pioneer of artificial sound, on his *Ecuatorial* (1933-4), paving the way for experimental works by John Cage, Stockhausen and Messiaen (notably his exuberant *Turangalila Symphony*).

**Rhythmicon**  
American avant-garde composer Henry Cowell built the first electronic rhythm machine in 1930. In the Fifties it pulsed on producer Joe Meek's early recordings. Later, it was sampled by Tangerine Dream and reputedly used by Pink Floyd on *Atom Heart Mother* (1969).

**Clavoline**  
The clavoline arrived in 1947 and was used by composer John Barry before becoming the sound of the future thanks to the Tornadoes' hit "Telstar" (1962), produced by Joe Meek. It was used, incidentally, by Stanley Kubrick in *Dr Strangelove* (1963).

**Electronium and Clavivox**  
A couple of the many gizmos developed in the Fifties and Sixties by the composer, engineer, and electro genius Raymond Scott. The Clavivox was one of the first polyphonic sequencers and the Electronium was used on his album of ambient lullabies, *Soothing Sounds For Baby* (1963), which was recently reissued on Basta records.

**Moog Synthesiser**  
Robert Moog developed his ideas for an electronic instrument from building and selling theremin kits in 1961. After the success of Walter Carlos's *Switched On Bach* (1968) everyone seemed to be using a moog. Except Queen, who (until 1980, at least) declared in their credits "no synthesisers".

**Mellotron**  
Built by the West Midlands firm Streetly Electronics, the first mellotron arrived in 1963. Its most famous appearance was on The Beatles' "Strawberry Fields Forever" (1967) and it was beloved of Seventies prog rockers. A set of keys triggered taped recordings of musical instruments.

**Stylophone**  
This monophonic xylophone had all the musical sophistication of a Maxon. Manufactured by Dubreq in the late Sixties, it was heavily promoted by Rolf Harris. David Bowie radioed Ground Control with it on "Space Oddity" (1969).

## More filthy songs for dirty minds

PERSONS OF a nervous disposition, as the BBC calls us, are not the ideal audience for *The Tiger Lillies*. Indeed, they may not want to read this review. In the music by the trio responsible for the critically acclaimed musical *Shockheaded Peter* one can hear echoes of Berlin-period Weill, Bob Dylan, country and western, and the songs of Romanian peasants and whales.

Much of it sounds like waiting for the other shoe to drop. The lyrics, however, are reminiscent mainly of horror comics and what we call special-interest magazines.

Martin Jacques, who could pass for a sour-faced Irish publican were it not for the waist-length pigtail and the falsetto voice, manipulates his con-

### CABARET THE TIGER LILLIES ALMEIDA THEATRE LONDON

certain to imitate the car crash of which he sings: "Shards of glass have pierced your arteries and skin." The words of a csárdás are hard to understand but, with repetition, they can be heard as "Your dribble! Your dribble! Your dribble down your chin!"

Adrian Stout plays bass with a dreamy expression; Adrian Hughes, twinkly and benign, assists on drums festooned with rubber chickens. The birds, along with a row of anxious-looking stuffed animals and large plastic insects, are

used by the group to illustrate some of their numbers, such as one that goes: "I want to have sex with flies/ When I try, I'm too big/ I stick it in, and they don't live." Sometimes Jacques' partners chorus the last words of a line, as in "I love a little hamster up my anus".

With such openers you may wonder where these songs can go, but none of them has any travel plans. The idea is simply stated, then repeated, often in the same words. One, however, does have an exciting, if unsurprising, narrative. It dolefully begins, "They're painting the gallows outside my cell," and follows a condemned man through his last 30 minutes on earth, ending with a rattle and a protruding tongue. Could be very popular at Halloween.



The Tiger Lillies: shocking stuff

After a while, the material became less surprising. If still shocking, but sensitive listeners would undoubtedly be disturbed by the rhymes - the

would-be suicide who "thought it might be a laugh/ But the oven wasn't gas". "Laugh" is also used to rhyme with "arse" a lot. It squeaks in protest.

One number was not worrying in the least: Jacques sang "Autumn Leaves" in a conventional enough way, though rather flat and as if "autumn" were two words. That was our only opportunity for relaxation, even if one looked away from the stage. The north London audience - some in black leather and large chunks of face paint, some in Alice bands - were extremely enthusiastic, bobbing their heads and pounding their fists to the rhythm of "Bangin' in the Nails" (as in the Cross). They also loudly approved of a plain-tiff ode to the singer's true love, a sheep named Wellington. As another Wellington said, with different emphasis, they frightened me.

RHODA KOENIG

## A very brave New World

### CLASSICAL LPO/BOTSTEIN ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL LONDON

THE AMERICAN conductor Leon Botstein has earned himself something of a reputation for rescuing worthy lesser masters from relative obscurity (Joachim, Dohnányi, Hartmann and others), but Friday's LPO concert found him pulling out the stops for one of the repertory's best-loved works.

Not long ago, Botstein suggested to me that the celebrated "Largo" second movement from Dvorak's *New World Symphony* may well be a musical narrative based on the theme of Hiawatha, and there was a discernible storytelling element in Friday's performance. The first movement (with repeat) was passionate, propulsive and rhythmically tight, with excellent woodwinds and impressive teamwork from the LPO strings. The scherzo was dashing fast and, for once, the perky little clarinet counter-melody that spices the first theme was clearly audible. Horns and trombones rang resplendent in the finale (though the trumpets were rather weak) and the heroic return of the symphony's first theme that crowns the closing pages was played fully up to speed.

The rest of the concert was more variable. Wagner's serene *Lohengrin* Prelude came first, and it was pleasing to hear the veil of darkening orchestration fall from high strings through woodwinds to lower strings and brass, like daylight transforming to dusk and back again. But while Bot-

stein had charted - and shaped - the Dvorak virtuously to perfection, his tempo for Wagner was too slow.

The concert's central attraction was Khachaturian's tuneful, garish and musically banal Violin Concerto, in which the soloist was the Orchestra's accomplished leader, Joakim Svenheden. My guess is that Svenheden is well acquainted with David Oistrakh's records of the piece, especially in the sultry slow movement, where the velvet tone and artful phrasing were warningly reminiscent of the Russian master.

The first movement's second idea was also beautifully played, but the resolute opening seemed laboured, and some of Svenheden's passagework later on, although commendably brilliant, failed to project above the orchestra. Botstein's conducting was at its best at the start of the finale, but elsewhere the score's hyperactive inner parts - most notably among the woodwinds - sounded muddled. Still, it was a valiant display by Svenheden. As to Botstein, it would be nice to see him inaugurate a London-based festival, each year specialising in an individual composer. I'm told that Schoenberg is next on the agenda.

ROB COWAN

## The money's too tight to mention

"STATE OF the Nation" is the splendidly bold but completely inaccurate description for the annual celebration of a tiny area of new music: one that can only thrive on patronage. But as a barometer of composition today, it was a jolly occasion within narrowish limits.

Over two days, the spaces and halls of the South Bank, with the exception of the Festival Hall, were taken over by workshops and concerts bringing together composers, players, and the skills of Contemporary Music-making for Amateurs (COMA), the London Sinfonietta, Sonic Arts Net-

work, SOUND intermedia, the BBC, the Society for the Promotion of New Music, and Performing Arts Education. Like the Norrington "Experiences", this had all the ingredients of a festive occasion where gaps between events for mixing and mingling proved as important as the events themselves.

Four concerts took place on Saturday, interspersed with four workshop sessions repeated three times. A triumph of organisation, concert length was tightly controlled (as little as 45 minutes for two of them) and workshops kept to a short, sharp 30 minutes. "How to

### CLASSICAL STATE OF THE NATION / LONDON SINFONIETTA SOUTH BANK CENTRE LONDON

earn a living as a composer" produced two virtual stand-up comics in Stephen Montague and Steve Martland; Montague espousing the business approach with cards and good organisation, reserving the Jeremy Paxman eyebrow for Martland's denial of the efficacy of such an approach.

Joanna MacGregor realised too late that the title of her talk "How to persuade a composer to write for you and what to do with it next" was something of a contradiction in the context of milling composers. She had harsh words for publishers who didn't know how to deal with improvised scores, and dismay over the problem of "second" performances.

One entire concert was given over to works inspired by Patrick Caulfield in the context and physical space of the Hayward Gallery's current exhibition. A small group of London Sinfonietta players - Timothy

Lines, David Purser, Enno Smit, and John Constable with SOUND intermedia offered a dark sound spectrum of clarinet, trombone, double bass, and keyboard sampler - for four specially commissioned works. Only Edward Rushton's cheerfully extrovert "Cheap Drinks" approached the literalism of Caulfield's work while Ian Vine's minimal "Three Black Moons", an exercise in suspended sound, derived its name from a mobile by Alexander Calder. Ian Deardon and SOUND intermedia provided immensely subtle electronics in the somewhat uneasy space

of the Hayward's upper gallery. With few chairs and few cushions, footsteps and sighs gathered unusual volume.

Earlier in the day, the QEH proved more welcome for the three other concerts. John Wallace and John Constable made deft work of "Shiver and Shake" by Joe Duddell for trumpet and piano, while John Constable gave a studied reading of Luke Stoneham's charming conceit "Nobody here but us Chickens" for solo harpsichord. Martyn Brabbins ably steered many other works for the tireless Sinfonietta players. ANNETTE MORREAU







## MEDIA

The day after the *Tonight* before

Investigative journalism or tabloid TV? Granada's crowd-pleasing current affairs show must decide. By Steve Boulton

If you have shares in ITV, Thursday nights at around 10pm might be a good time to adopt old-time religion. The people who run the ITV Network Centre are making a £14m attempt to find the Holy Grail of television journalism: the challenge of popularity with credibility.

When Trevor McDonald says hello on the bright new *Tonight* set, will his producers have unearthed the "current affairs show which is consistently popular, but authoritative enough to keep the industry regulators happy?" Will the unveiling of the show's magazine format "get the tabloids talking but win grudging admiration from the broadsheets?"

If *Tonight* can crack these dilemmas, a lot of people at ITV will shout Hallelujah, and not just those who view journalism the way *Top Gear* regards public transport. At Granada TV, where the long-running – and hugely profitable – *World in Action* was scrapped to make way for the McDonald hour, there will be a collective release of breath.

Last week's hour-long Martin Bashir interview with the Stephen Lawrence Five was a PR coup designed to launch *Tonight* and to establish its credentials for scoop journalism. But the single-issue format and the subject matter – which could easily have been a *Panorama*, a *Dispatches* or (whisper it) a *World in Action* – tell us little about the identity of ITV's new flagship.

*Tonight*'s true shape as a magazine show driven by personality presenters will emerge from this week as will its agenda. And it's on this template – not the Bashir interrogations – that ITV and Granada are gambling a lot of prestige and a fair whack of money.

The bid document which won Granada – with ITN as a minor partner – the contract for the series was leaked to the press in January. *Tonight* is likely to devote most of its slots to news-related items, but this will not be news as Jeremy Paxman or Jon Snow understand it. There will be personality profiles (George Michael and Judy Finnegan alongside Mo'Nique); "hidden angles" features (what *Coronation Street*'s Deirdre would find if she'd really been sent to prison); and, crucially, jokey stunts. (Lord Irvine gets unsolicited DIV advice from a cut-price wallpaper baron.) "It's stunts like these," enthused Granada to a private audience of three ITV executives, "that will get this programme talked about."

Perhaps one-quarter of each show will be devoted to an "original investigation", but the editor will be "ruthlessly discriminating" in commissioning these. Granada promised ITV that it had learnt key lessons from other popular factual shows – to choose "universal subjects", such as "airports, hotels, hospitals, animals, driving lessons".



Martin Bashir's interview with the Lawrence Five, including David Norris (above), was a good scoop but its viewing figures were disappointing

Granada had a trial run at this agenda last autumn, using the remaining slots of *World in Action* to experiment, and raising audiences by a couple of per cent on the old version. In a single run, there were four programmes about things that can go wrong on your holidays, a similar fascination with food scares – even pet food – and a growing devotion to stunts and consumer journalism à la *Watchdog*. Very little on the main news agenda was covered and in-depth investigation vanished. If this remains the pattern, ITV will have said goodbye to regular, substantial journalism in its peak hour now that *News at Ten* has been replaced by a late bulletin.

It's unlikely that ITV – or Granada – will want to see it this way. Officially, *Tonight* with Trevor McDonald is being sold as proper current affairs, updated to modern tastes. Privately, there's a more sophisticated position, that nuggets of

vintage current affairs will be smuggled out under cover of the human interest and knockabout stuff which will actually pull in the punters and keep the advertisers happy.

When I joined *World in Action* as the junior researcher in 1983, its role was explained to me by a veteran:

Services division, toilets section. The whole point of the ITV schedule is to attract precisely the audiences advertisers most like, young, affluent, aspiring. And it's these people the Granada show dearly wants to deliver, people whom their *Tonight* bid said felt "threatened" by

– last used in a doomed attempt to get Richard and Judy into peak-time – have been run through focus groups and market samples. This is journalism as the channel schedulers and the advertising sales department would prefer it, designed to interest the widest public. But is

such as *World in Action* and *Panorama* has always been their omnipresence on TV. There are only so many weeks in the year when Mick Jagger gets out of jail; when a future Hollywood director hits on the perfect formula for dissecting the class system, or when you persuade five men accused of murder to break their silence, for that matter.

The original reason for these shows – to act as the big background to the week's news – disappeared long ago, when satellite, video and digital allowed the news itself to deliver rapid depth and analysis. Instead, all the big series, while ignoring the big stories, found other roles, largely as investigative units, exposing corruption, describing social conditions and taking cameras to the sort of places that didn't turn up on the news bulletins.

Countless others attempted to repeat the trick, but only a few permeated the national conscious.

The original reason for flagship shows disappeared years ago when satellite and digital allowed rapid, in-depth delivery of the news

"Our job, son, is to comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable." This was the heyday of investigative telly – of the British Steel papers, the Birmingham Six and – you heard it on *World in Action* first – Spycatcher.

To talk of afflicting the comfortable at Granada today would be to invite commitment to the Motorway

traditional current affairs.

The advice being offered to newcomers to *World in Action*'s successor is therefore very different. They are to get to the emotional heart of the story. Packaging is key. And the tone should be upbeat, lively, cheeky and entertaining.

Programme content, choice of presenters, even the rather tired title

it in the public interest?

ITV current affairs was always intended to break moulds, to be brash in the days when its only rival was the stuffy BBC. Its agenda was always catholic – opening with nuclear weapons, but taking us also into the lives of a supermodel and a pirate radio ship.

The problem for flagship shows

ness for long, although *This Week* is still glorified – or vilified, to taste – for *Death On The Rock*, and *First Tuesday* for its campaign for the Guildford Four.

Significantly, the *Tonight* model – typified by US shows like CBS's *Sixty Minutes* – has done least well in the UK. ITV has been here before, amid an ocean of cash and hype on the unimpeachable *Eyewitness* from LWT. Yorkshire's 3D was an attempt to create a similar vehicle – short reports linked by ITN's glamorous Julia Somerville. Its demise last year left little trace.

The BBC has played with the format, too, and came closest to sustaining the ideal with the zappy *Here & Now*, devised in large part by Steve Anderson, who is now ITV's driving force behind *Tonight*. (His brother Jeff is *Tonight*'s editor.) *Here & Now* may have been the most satisfying of the kind but it, too, failed the impact test and was pulled off in the autumn.

ITV believes *Tonight* will succeed where these failed because – this time – the formula will be right. Thanks to the market testing and the "lessons" learnt from docu-soap, it will try to feed back to the audience the kinds of stories the audience thinks it wants to hear, packaged in a way that entertains, but does not threaten, its aspirational appetites.

This is a definition of public service broadcasting founded on giving the public what they say they want, rather than attempting to define the public interest. Investigations into police corruption are a no-no, as the public prefers to trust the cops. Substantial stories about Ireland, politics and most of abroad are increasingly unlikely. *Panorama* will be publicly encouraged to do its duty and report on regional assemblies, the euro and multinationals, because that will widen public choice – and because such material further erodes BBC's peaktime share.

All of this makes a kind of commercial sense, although the regulators at the ITC and the considerable institutional pride of Granada and ITN will want to hang on to as much credibility as they can. The hard act for them will be to keep the fluffy stuff in check enough to convince the discerning viewer that they're still dealing with authoritative telly.

*Tonight*'s one-off show on the Lawrence murder was an editorial coup and a PR triumph, but it yielded an average of 4.77 million viewers, much lower than *News at Ten* got on a good night, and a great deal less than the six million or more that is *Tonight*'s target. So what now for the public interest? Upbeat, lively, cheeky and entertaining, of course.

Steve Boulton worked on *World in Action* from 1983 to 1998. He was editor from 1994 to 1998. He now runs an independent company, working most recently for Channel 4's *Dispatches*.

## THE WORD ON THE STREET

IT'S NICE to know that in this world of moral relativism some things don't change. Like the old-fashioned and blinkered world view of *The Daily Telegraph*. The journalist Sarah Helm and her partner Jonathan Powell, who is Tony Blair's chief of staff, have just had their second child. Powell's secretary called the *Telegraph*'s births, deaths and marriages to place the announcement. "Harrumph" came the fuddy-duddy reply: "We cannot accept a child with two surnames." This is what is widely known as a euphemism: only married people, it seems, have children in the pages of *The Daily Telegraph*.



blended with supporting statements from Alex Ferguson and Bobby Charlton. As PR they made pretty pointless reading given the death of the deal. But if the Government had handed United to Sky, they might have been just what was needed to calm down some of the rage that would have followed. Which is no doubt what they were meant for. Oh hubris.

REVENGE IS a dish best served cold, as the International Olympic Committee is finding at the hands of investigative journalist Andrew Jennings. The IOC successfully sued Mr Jennings in Switzerland for writing about IOC corruption, a few years ago, and has been banning him from its press conferences. Now that the phrase "Olympic ideal" has come to be understood as standing for "a few thousand, untraceable, in a brown envelope", Mr Jennings's time has come. This week he flies to Washington to give evidence to the Senate hearings into Salt Lake City's bid for the Winter Olympics. This is more than Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, has deigned to do. And yes Mr Jennings is feeling vindicated. And a tiny bit smug.

TIM ALLAN, BSkyB's PR man, showed the benefit of his training in rapid rebuttal PR with the Labour Party, when the Manchester United decision was announced last week. Along with BSkyB's response – "We are still a great business... can't think why we wanted Man U in the first place... ooh no, we're all fine, honest..." – came a huge eight-page document containing 16 positive testimonials about BSkyB's plans. Business journalists' glowing remarks about the deal in print were

It may not be as sexy as comedy or wildlife, but history is the latest TV ratings-puller. By Darius Sanai

## Have I got ancient news for you

THE BRITISH fascination with examining and retracing the past shows no sign of abating. The ratings reveal that the past, whether in the form of DIY archaeology, jazzed-up history or serious documentary, is more popular than ever.

The biggest attention-grabber this year has been C4's *Time Team*, a Sunday-night show about amateur archaeology which has gained a 3.6 million audience-rating and a devoted fan-club numbering 25,000. The book of the series is at number three on the *Sunday Times* bestseller list, the channel has had massive demand for memorabilia, and it won an award at the British Television Society awards last week.

This Saturday BBC2 starts a new *History Zone*. Viewers will be able to watch a two-hour block of historical and archaeological programming, featuring shows such as *One Foot in the Past* and *Meet the Ancestors*, to complement Friday's *Comedy Zone* and Sunday's *Animal Zone*.

Even with the channel's pedigree, elevating documentaries of the Gulag to the same status as *Have I Got News For You* and the antics of furry creatures, shows confidence in the pulling power of the past.

Jane Root, BBC2's controller and the woman responsible for the *History Zone*, says history has only

Tony Robinson, the presenter of *Time Team* (right)

recently become so sellable. "Lots of things have happened in the past 10 years or so that mean history is no longer dull and dusty," she says.

"Programme-makers have become really good at storytelling, at narrative history, and now there's a feeling of taking part. Even 10 years ago it was considered impossible to show a programme about pre-20th century history. That has changed."

Ms Root, who took over at the channel late last year, announced at the time that "you can't afford not to be brave on BBC2". But is BBC2 breaking new ground or just reacting to the ratings? "Run-

ning any channel, you do some brave things and others that build on past success," Ms Root says. "While with comedy we're pushing back boundaries, here the boundaries are about engaging people in different ways."

There's something reassuringly British about it. The British are by reputation a gentle nation, and there seems nothing more British than the idea of having a nice cup of tea while watching some people dig in a suburban garden in the hope of finding a saucer dating from the 17th century.

Paula Snyder of C4's *Time Team* says TV is responding to a general fascination with the past. "In the

run up to the Millennium, people are asking more questions about who we are and where we come from. It's fascinating to explain: all the bones and artefacts and bits of pottery have helped shape our destiny." *Time Team* has, in the words of Tim Taylor, the series producer, used "quirkiness" to make it attractive. "Before, the tradition in televising archaeology was to get some wonderful expert who would talk down to the audience. The key with us was to do it live, and risk failure." The popularity of this approach speaks for itself: the show's website receives 1.5 million hits after an episode.

"To make compelling TV you find people using new techniques to illustrate history," says Jenny Barraclough of Mentorn Barraclough Carey, leading documentary makers. "And it's not just about the ancient past. How am I going to convey what it was like for someone in a trailer park in the 1960s American South, waiting for one of the first heart transplants? You get a figure sitting in a trailer park in a 1960s ambience, and maybe turn it sepia. The viewer expects these things, and it gives them an idea of the humans involved. The key is the anecdote: that's what works, and that's what's changed."

Mrs Barraclough used these techniques in NBC's popular *History of Ancient Civilisations*. She

produced the programmes on the Ancient Greeks and the Minoans, and though the 1996 series won an Emmy, it was criticised for being overly populist, using extensive dramatic reconstruction and anecdote in documenting the ancient world.

"It hasn't played here, perhaps because it's seen as too populist," she says. "But it's amazing NBC commissioned something like that. It was brave of them, and it worked."

There is, however, a fine line for broadcasters to tread between turning viewers off by sounding like a fifth-form history lesson, and trivialising the past by reducing it to a series of human-interest anecdotes. "The key is balance," says Jane Root, pointing out that the *History Zone* programming also features *Into Africa*, a series about the precolonial history of the continent.

The "Zone" packages are more marketing ploy than policy change, Ms Root admits. "Nowadays, with the multiplication of channels, you need to navigate your way around complex choices," she says. "We wanted to make it easier to find an element you can call your own." Through that logic, a prime-time Saturday night *History Zone* on state-owned television, in a nation consumed by its complex history, seems extraordinarily apt.



fore  
e Boulton

# Right turn at Farringdon

## The sacking of a left-wing *Guardian* writer has sparked protests about the paper's politics. By Paul McCann

s for long, although *This Week's* glorified — or vilified — assassin, *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*, is the focus of its campaign for the Midford Four.

Significantly, the *Tonight* model, as US shows like CBS's *60 Minutes* — has done least well in the matter of cash and hype on the so-called *Evergreen* from *ITN*'s *Shirley's 2D* was an attempt to create a similar vehicle — short stories, drawn by *ITN*'s glamorous in *Someone*. Its demise last year little trace.

The BBC has played with the idea, too, and came closest to making the ideal with the *Zone* and *Now*, devised in large part by Steve Anderson, who is now *ITN*'s driving force behind *Tonight's* brother *Jeff* is *Tonight's* editor and *Now* may have been the last satisfying of the kind but it ended the impact test and was pulled in the summer.

*ITV* believes *Tonight* will succeed where these failed because — this is the formula — will be rights to take market testing and lessons "learn" from docu-clip it try to feed back to the audience — kinds of stories the audience it wants to hear, packaged in a way that entertains, but does not enter the aspirational appetite.

This is a definition of public service broadcasting founded on giving a public what they say they want, then then attempting to define the bare interest. Investigations into any corruption are a no-no, as the bias preclude to trust the cops, historical stories about Ireland, Africa, and most of abroad are instantly unappealing. *Paranormal* is regularly encouraged to do its duty report on regional assemblies, a year, and multinational, because that is where public choice is made, and such material further adds *ITN*'s headline share.

All this makes a kind of commercial sense, although the reputation of the *ITC* and the traditional institutional one of *ITN* and *ITN* will want to keep to a small, unobtrusive as they can, as much as they will be to keep a steady, in check enough to prevent the discerning viewer that *ITN* is dealing with, authority.

A s demonstrations go, this was a very peculiar one: a small group of striking Liverpool dockers picketed the offices of *The Guardian* newspaper yesterday. Why? Because the paper had dismissed one of its columnists, a man whose support for the dockers – and for other unfashionable left-wing causes – has been unflinching.

The stand-up comedian Mark Steel has been contributing a weekly political column for the comment pages of *The Guardian* for two-and-a-half years. Espousing Old Labour causes, his writing is trenchant and witty. In fact, the day that his first column appeared, the foreign secretary Robin Cook called Steel and asked if he would write gags for him.

His columns have since caused ruffles among *The Guardian's* senior executives – in particular, one supporting the strikers on London Underground's Jubilee Line "made them very cross", says Steel. New Labour also found Steel's hard line difficult to swallow.


Bill Morris of the TUC objected to a column that Steel wrote about the union movement's treatment of the Liverpool dockers. (Steel wrote that Morris's version of trade unionism was little more than the *Yellow Pages*, as they both seem to be able to help you get insurance and credit cards: "If your union cannot defend you against a ruthless employer, there is no point ringing Direct Line," he wrote.)

He quoted Morris's complaint that the journalist John Pilger had given the dockers "false hope" by claiming they could win, and accused him of being defeatist: "If Bill Morris had been at Agincourt his stirring speech would have been, 'I wouldn't bother going into the breach, boys. Have you seen the size of some of them French? Anyway, it's illegal to flare your nostrils'."

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, was even more unhappy with Steel's opinions of the Government's bombing of Iraq in December last year. When the comedian wrote

that Robertson was "stupid enough to believe his own bullshit", he was, he explains, pointing out that Robertson has said that Saddam Hussein's planes could carry 300 litres of deadly anthrax. "Well," wrote Steel, "300 empty wine bottles could also carry 300 litres of deadly anthrax, if you put anthrax in them."

Steel now says that he feared something was up last September, when the paper seemed hesitant about renewing his contract and talked about reducing the frequen-



cy of his contributions. He then wrote a piece of reportage for *The Independent*, which prompted *The Guardian* to offer him another six-month contract as long as he never wrote for *The Independent* again.

In January this year, David Leigh, the paper's comment editor, met Steel for 80 minutes at the Waldorf Hotel in London to tell him his services were no longer needed. "I remember him telling me that the paper was preparing to realign itself politically," Steel says of that meeting. "One of the problems with *The Guardian* is that it believes Tony Blair - that we're all becoming middle class." Leigh's *coup de grace* was, according to Steel, to tell him that "there are people at *The Guardian* who consider you vulgar."

When news of Steel's ousting began to circulate, his supporters sent a letter of protest to *The*

*Guardian's* editor, Alan Rusbridger. This missive was not simply the work of activists and disenfranchised dockers: it included the names of regular and well-respected contributors to *The Guardian* and its sister paper *The Observer*, including Francis Wheen, John Pilger and Nick Cohen, together with Channel 4's Jon Snow and comedians Jo Brand, Phil Jupitus and Mark Lamarr. Even the general secretary of National Union of Journalists has become involved in the issue.

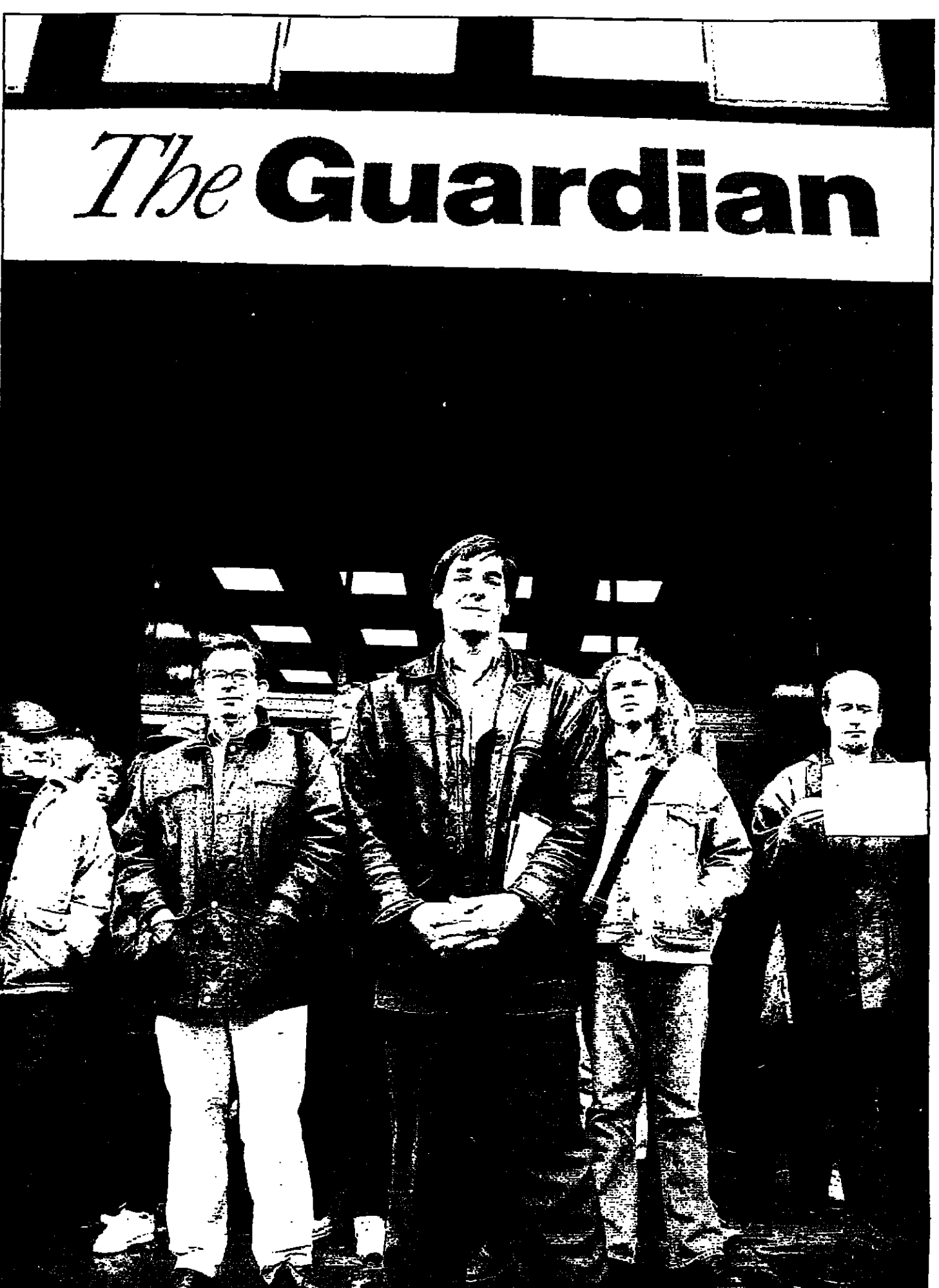
Unfortunately, *The Guardian* decided that the list of signatories on the letter protesting about Steel's dismissal did not merit its publication.

Last week, the newspaper tried to head off criticism by telling the *Evening Standard's* media diary that Steel would be replaced by the equally left-wing comedian Jeremy Hardy. This came as something of a surprise to Steel as Hardy was a very old friend from the stand-up comedy circuit. One of the signatories of the original letter, and, what's more, already a *Guardian* columnist.

It also came as something of a surprise to Hardy, who, it is believed, has now told *The Guardian* that he doesn't want the Steel slot.

*The Guardian*, however, rebuts Steel's version of events. A spokeswoman for the newspaper explained: "There had been a discussion about the tone and style of a particular Mark Steel column. This was at the time when his contract was up for renewal, and inevitably we moved on to discuss that. At the same time, Mark asked us if he could do some pieces for *The Independent's* sports pages. We said that was fine, as there was no conflict. But his pieces appeared in *The Independent's* comment section [they were actually on our features pages] and we felt he had misled us. It is a surprise to us," she added, pointedly, "that he has organised this protest."

For those who marched on *The Guardian's* headquarters yesterday, it was not just about solidarity for a like-minded individual. They wanted reassurance that sacking Steel didn't mean that *The Guardian* was turning its back on the old left.



**A very peculiar protest: Mark Steel and supporters at the Guardian building yesterday evening. Steel's support of the Liverpool dockers was deemed too left-wing for the paper's editor, Alan Rusbridger (left)** *Peter Macdiarmid/PA*

# Do you read me, comrade?

**In a time of war, the Internet has proved a useful contact point. But how reliable is its information? By Charles Arthur**

Mr. H. was involved in World War II from 1942 to 1946. He was then in the U.S. Navy. He was the first independent company, independent of the Navy, for China. (Continued)

**A** common aphorism among Internet geeks is that the network "treats censorship as damage, and just routes around it". That is, if you try to stop the flow of information, all that happens is that you get less information - but nobody else does. If the war in Kosovo is truly the "first Internet war", as is being claimed in some papers, how does it measure up against the geeks' rule of thumb?

The early signs are: very well. Both newspapers and television have found that e-mail, especially, is a godsend when it comes both to keeping in touch with their journalists, and finding out what public opinion is like within the embattled territories both of Kosovo and Belgrade. The Web, similarly, has been a boon - especially to B92, an independent radio station which operated in Yugoslavia. Despite being stopped from broadcasting over the air on 24 March, it kept sending audio and video messages to a website - [www.b92.net](http://www.b92.net) - which anyone with a Web browser could look at.

Clearly, the Serb authorities thought this was not good: on 2 April they shut down the station altogether, sealing the premises and dismissing the station's director, Sasa Mirkovic, by court order, replacing him with a new one chosen by the government-controlled Council of Youth, which sounds like something named by George Orwell.

The Internet has come to the fore in this war principally by making it possible for correspondents and even ordinary citizens to keep in touch with their friends in the West. Universities and Serbian institutions have been thrust to the forefront, as Western media organisations have targeted them with e-mails in search of authentic-sounding vox pops from as close to ground zero as possible. They have got replies, too. Sky News discovered early on in the campaign that hun-

[illegible]

with copy before this conflict started.

If you look on our website at [www.iwpr.net](http://www.iwpr.net), we have a comment page, and I wouldn't trust 90 per cent of the remarks made there about the damage has and hasn't been done by the war." The geeks have a phrase for that too: on the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog.

However, The Express was quick to latch on to the possibility of e-mail as a source; *The Independent*, too, has benefited by publishing reports sent via the IWPR. Their first-hand

media contact with Kosovo accounts have the grainy texture of a war report, but without the disavancing of emotion that is more familiar in war correspondents.

In that sense, the Internet offers far more, and to far more outlets, than ham radio – or indeed any other means of communication – could. Even telephone conversations could not reach millions of people in the way that pictures or voices stored on B92's website can; and a single e-mail account containing 10,000 words takes far less telephone time to send than a picture, and can pass just as freely around the world's media via the Net. Even in Kosovo, far more people can afford computers and get access to phone lines than would ever have spent money on a shortwave radio. That

means that, for a while, data could pass in and out of Yugoslavia far more easily than in any conflict in the past.

It couldn't last, though. "Milošević tends to operate via cronies, and one of these owned the Internet service providers and the mobile phone network. It was only a matter of time before they were turned off," said Carey. "The Internet made a huge difference in the early stages of the conflict here. But I would not be sure of how far those reports in Belgrade even know those Serbian extremists."

The reason, he explains, is that the Internet relies on phone access: So, until everybody has access to mobile phone data that doesn't rely on government-controlled network, this problem will remain. "That day might not be far off: satellite mobile phone networks are already in place. Or Western journalists. GSM mobile phones already do the job."

It's very interesting, even if fruitless, to speculate about what the Second World War would have been like if we had then had the current level of Internet saturation. Could it have been averted? Would it have been contained? When the bombing started, would the inhabitants of Dresden and Coventry have been drawn down? Or, more likely, would the two sides' propaganda machines have attempted to use each possible listener as a lever against their government, to try to weaken any resolve?

What the Internet clearly cannot do is clear the fog of war. Even with the best, more ubiquitous mobile technology, each individual only gets a small picture of what is going on, and generals are usually in the dark about their opponents' real movements. For the person on the ground, confusion will still be the rule. "The Net has made a marginal improvement to war reporting," said Flurey. "But you still need to know who's sending it, and how trustworthy they are."

Or as the geeks would put it - in another favourite aphorism - "garbage in, garbage out."

## Coming soon: the 'Mr Darcy' shirt collection

## ANALYSIS

PAUL MCCANN

THE BBC is becoming a toy company. That is to say, in its quest to squeeze ever more money from its programme spin-offs it is taking over the design, product development and the manufacturing of toys based on BBC programmes.

Last month it signed a ground-breaking deal with Tomly, the Japanese toy company which makes Tamagotchi, for Tomly to distribute Teletubbies and other BBC-based toys in the Far East. But, for the first time, it wasn't simply giving over control of its copyright and taking a fee while the toy company makes money from manufacturing and selling the products.

From now on, the BBC will develop its own designs for toys, negotiate with the manufacturers itself and, more importantly, take a profit for the first time ever from making the toys. Tomly will just distribute the toys to shops through its distribution network.

It is a pattern which will be repeated in Australia, the UK and Europe when its existing licensing agreements expire, and then it will be extended beyond toys spun-off from children's programmes. The BBC envisions heritage wallpaper brands that it can design and develop, spun off from a costume drama. It has big plans.

"At the moment BBC Worldwide makes 40p in the pound from a sales made under a licensing agreement," says Jeff Taylor, BBC Worldwide's director of global marketing and brand development. "By taking on the design, development and manufacturing ourselves we should double that."

The phrase that the BBC is using for this development is "moving higher up the value chain", and is reflected in other areas of its commercial activities.

Last year the BBC announced a

joint venture with America's Discovery cable network to create a number of global channels using BBC programmes. In the UK it has entered into a similar deal with Flextech, to create the UKTV series of cable and satellite channels.

The rationale for these deals was explained by Sir John Birt last year, when he described how channels like Discovery and other upmarket American cable channels had become companies worth billions on

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*The BBC envisions heritage wallpaper brands that it can design and develop, spun off from a costume drama*

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the back of showing programmes licensed from the BBC. While the BBC had made some money from selling programmes to these channels, it had missed out on the longer term value of having a stake in the channels showing them.

By creating joint venture companies, it is moving higher up that value chain in the sense that it has an equity stake in actual branded channels which have a value in themselves beyond the programmes they show.

Changes in the global business world have made it possible to get into the toy business without spending millions on start-up costs. It will buy in expertise on the creative end, with toy designers and such like, but manufacturing and quality control can now all be supplied by outside companies. This is thanks to the growth of "outsourcing" so that ser-

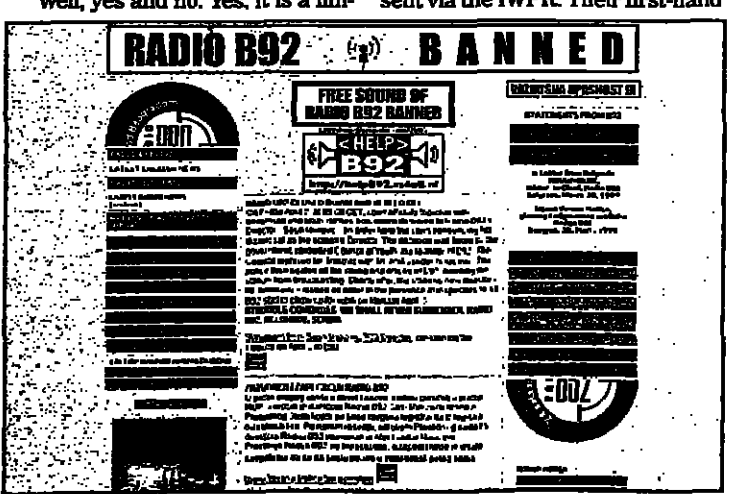
vices can be supplied by specialist agents and companies without the BBC carrying the cost or risks of setting up a division which actually owns plastic moulding equipment for toys.

Equally, Tommy now distributes its rival Hasbro's toys in Japan, while Hasbro does the same for Tommy in Australia – such is the nature of global capitalism – so it is simple for the BBC to just plug into existing business systems where it needs to, without expanding too far out of its own core business.

Taking more direct control of product design and manufacturing also means that the corporation can ensure that everything carrying one of its own brands upon it hits a certain quality threshold – thereby protecting the corporation's overall image as an upmarket, quality brand. It also plans to sign up to an ethical monitoring system, again something you can "outsource", as the ugly phrase has it, to make sure that its toy-manufacturing is not carried out by children or sweated labour in the Far East.

But this strategic move is not simply a decision based on ethics or protecting its image. Jeff Taylor forecasts that the revenues he makes from toys will rise from around £11m-£15m this year to £50m in three years' time.

Despite the changed business culture at the BBC, and a changed style of global business which allows the BBC to get into toy manufacturing, the move is not completely new. Since the 1920s the BBC has been in complete control of its production of the *Radio Times*, its most valuable spin-off, which is as far up the value chain as you can get. Its just that now it can make things – like toys and wallpaper – which stray much further from its core business.



**B92's website has been a boon to media contact with Kosovo**

: By Darius Sanai

you

reduced the programmes on the ancient Greeks and the Moors, although the 1996 series now in rerun, it was criticised for being overly populist, using extensive dramatic reconstruction and incoherence in documenting the ancient world.

"It hasn't been here, perhaps, because it's seen as too populist," says, "But it's amazing that it's commissioned something like that. It was brave of them, and I liked it."

There is, however, a fine line for broadcasters to tread between informing viewers off by sounding as a fifth-form history lesson, and trivialising the past by reducing it to a series of human-interest anecdotes. "The point is on that as Jane Root, keying out last of History Zone programme, so features, in a sense, must the precolonial history of a continent."

The "Zone" packages are marketed as a play than political, Ms Root admits. "To change, with the multiplication of channels, you need to navigate away around complex channels," she says. "We wanted to make it easier to find an element you can say, 'Through that lens. If your can.' Through that lens, prime-time Saturday night history Zone on state-owned television, in a nation consumed by a complex history, seems extremely apt."



# High style comes home

From T-shirts to cover-mounted CDs, magazines just love to promote themselves. And *Wallpaper\** is no exception. Their latest effort? A house. By Richard Cook

When Marie Claire launched in the United Kingdom, the poster adverts asked "Who is Marie Claire?", as though the publication could be equated with a person. Editorial meetings at the National Magazine Company constantly ask what Cosmo woman should be wearing, or who she is sleeping with. The identity of the reader is fed out in parcels of merchandising, from what she wears on her feet to what novels she reads. The lads' mag *Loaded* has even got in on the act. It flirted with a tasteless line in, well, pants, before actually settling down as a far more respectable sort of glossy boutique selling everything from sunglasses and sweatshirts to safari holidays.

The whole magazine merchandising craze has been taken to a new level by the high camp fashion bible *Wallpaper\**. Not for *Wallpaper\** the branded T-shirt or shopping bags favoured by *Elle*, nor the make-up and mascara offered by the likes of *Mizz* and *Marie Claire*. No, *Wallpaper\** is now proud to offer you, the devoted reader, the chance to acquire... the *Wallpaper\** house.

Now, *Wallpaper\** has many good qualities. It is the one high fashion magazine, after all, that doesn't take itself too seriously and it certainly isn't afraid of the bold and beautiful if ultimately meaningless gesture. How it stands as a purveyor of housing to the international sophisticate, on the other hand, is another question entirely.

From this morning, visitors to the Salone del Mobile show in Milan will



*'Ever since we launched in 1996 we've always wanted to build our own house. This year, finally, we have'*

TYLER BRULÉ

have an opportunity to find out. Today the specially designed *Wallpaper\** house opens. If you like it, you can order your very own version, not just to take home but actually to be home. After all, you've got the ultimate coffee table magazine, so why not go the whole hog and get the coffee table and living room to put it in?

*Wallpaper\** has simply eschewed the conventional merchandising gee-gaws – the videos, posters, calendars and screensavers that are fast becoming a staple of all our lives – in favour of something a little more

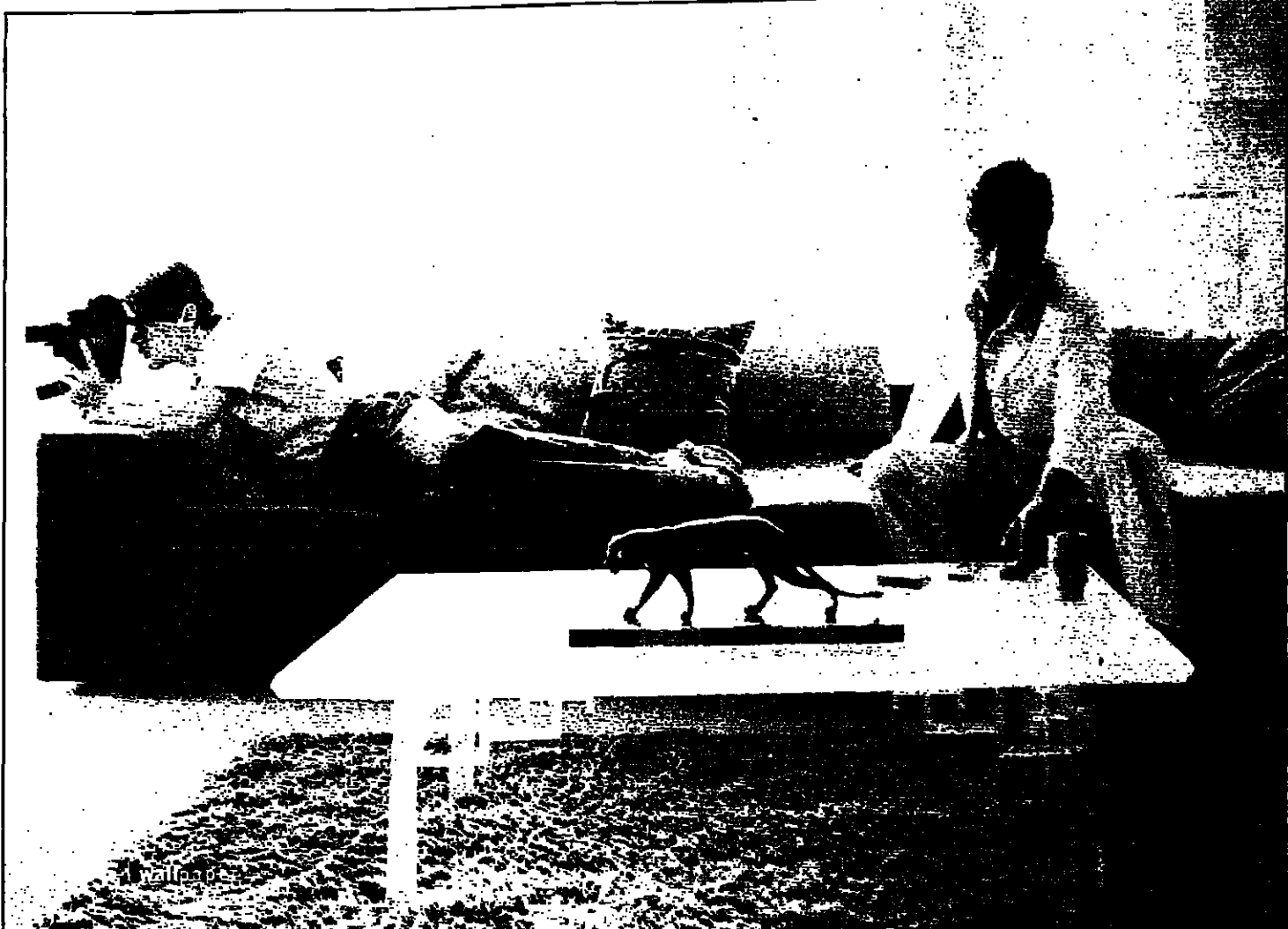
grandiose. The *Wallpaper\** house is a modest little 95sq-metre bungalow that can, explains its designer, the Swedish architect Thomas Sandell, "be built anywhere in the world".

Did I say modest? Actually that was a little disingenuous of me. The wooden-built house uses a specially developed wood effect wall material that allows light in. Bang & Olufsen are providing state-of-the-art hi-fi, while the kitchen and bathroom are being made specially by the design firms of Bossi and Cesana respectively. These are the sort of high-priced Italian talent that make Vialli and Zola look like lightweights. And, get this, such is the attention to luxurious detail that even the door handles are made by Pomellato, one of Italy's most extravagant jewellery companies.

"Ever since *Wallpaper\** launched in 1996 we've always wanted to build our own house. This year finally we have," explains the editorial director, Tyler Brulé, with refreshing simplicity.

*Wallpaper\** might have gone a little further than most magazine merchandisers, but then it has obeyed one of the golden rules of making a success of such things – it has been true to the personality of the magazine.

Because the fact is that *Wallpaper\** inhabits a place all of its own: a glamorous yet kitsch place where James Bond is played by Jimmy Smolett and where even the Bond villains know their Mission from their Molnari. It's a world where the cookery page can include a recipe for fruit salad – "cut fruit into small pieces and serve" – without blushing. A place



Don't just buy the magazine, buy the lifestyle. The *Wallpaper\** house will have the beautiful people swooning over their sofas

where the diet and exercise advice consists of two equally tough exhortations: first, that you shake your cocktails a little more vigorously; second, that you practise lip-synching Ultra Nate dance routines. This is exactly the sort of magazine that should be aiming high in the product merchandising stakes. Well, higher than *Cosmopolitan's* colourful knickers, anyway.

"The most important thing in any magazine merchandising deal is that you have complete control over everything that you do," says Anne Melbourne, the director of National Magazine Enterprises, and the woman responsible for all merchandising at the *Cosmopolitan* to *Good Housekeeping* publishing group. "And you have to make sure that whatever products you come up with stay true to the magazine's core brand values. So with a magazine of ours like *House Beautiful* we offer a range of products we have chosen for the home, such as a complete range of carpets. We also kit out two show homes completely at the Ideal Home Exhibition. But I think there are very few magazines that can support such a really large amount of merchandising activity. You've really got to be a market leader in your category and your magazine has really got to have a very strong personality."

But the rewards of successful merchandising deals are huge. The truth is that a successful merchandising deal for an entertainment event such as a TV programme, or for a well-known magazine, can actually be a bigger business than the event or product itself. In 1997 the worldwide turnover of the licensing industry was \$132bn (£82.5bn). To put this into perspective, that represents one-eighth of the UK's gross domestic product. It's more than the GDP of South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Israel or Greece. Of that vast figure, the US accounts for 64 per cent and Western Europe 23 per cent and

Japan 10 per cent. The rest of the world makes up the remaining rather fiftty three per cent, suggesting that some two-thirds of the world's population is still available to purchase a novelty Christmas gong, or their favourite magazine's range of knickers.

"The easy part is doing the sort of natural brand extensions – things like books and related magazines, and certainly we do that on *FHM* with our fashion title *FHM Collections* and books like *The Bachelors Collections*," explains Philip Thomas, the managing director of the market leading men's title *FHM*. "But the real difficulty and the danger comes if you are prepared to get involved in just about anything. If you just want to slap your name on something and pocket the royalties, readers will soon see through the offer. Worse still, they will immediately start to think less of your magazine. Any merchandising deal must have its own logic and must

offer the readers something they really want."

*Wallpaper\**'s impossibly glamorous home for the new millennium might fulfil both those criteria but, back in the real, rather less flamboyant world of magazine merchandising, the choices are very much more marginal.

"We have eight titles that are over 100 years old and none have ever been made available to third parties for merchandising in the past, so there is a huge opportunity," explains Agnes Kelly, head of merchandise licensing at the UK's largest magazine publisher, IPC. "But because there is for the first time a huge opportunity there has been the temptation for manufacturers to suggest all sorts of inappropriate merchandising matches. We couldn't do *Loaded* coffees, for instance, because there is absolutely no connection with the title and it would just put readers off, but it's the sort of thing we have been asked to do."

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## NEW FILMS

**BEDROOMS & HALLWAYS** (15, 96 mins)  
Director: Rose Troche  
Starring: Kevin McKidd, Jennifer Lien  
*Bedrooms & Hallways*, the latest offering from the This Life school of British film-making, sees Kevin McKidd's giddy Londoner being put through all manner of romantic hoops in the run-up to his 30th birthday. Kev's orientation arrow spins from gay to straight, his mates offer endless advice, and Simon Callow pops up as a New Agey men's group leader. Rose Troche's smooth direction and McKidd's winsome acting compensate for an often smug and lightweight script.  
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Repertory, The Pullman Everyman

**A CIVIL ACTION** (15, 115 mins)  
Director: Steven Zaillian  
Starring: John Travolta, Robert Duvall  
John Travolta's ambulance-chasing lawyer takes a shot at redemption in this complex and frequently absorbing courtroom saga that nonetheless raises inevitable comparisons with Sidney Lumet's *The Verdict*. Culled from a true story, *A Civil Action* spins a David-and-Goliath-style drama, in which blue-collar locals go head to head with the big corporations who poisoned their water. Zaillian negotiates the legal intricacies with ingenuity.  
West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, And local cinemas

**THE FACULTY** (15, 104 mins)  
Director: Robert Rodriguez  
Starring: Elijah Wood, Shawn Hatosy  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.  
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

**HIGH ART** (18, 101 mins)  
Director: Lisa Cholodenko  
Starring: Ally Sheedy, Radha Mitchell  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.  
West End: Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

**NO** (15, 85 mins)  
Director: Robert LePage  
Starring: Anne-Marie Cadieux, Alexis Marin  
LePage's third feature obliquely spotlights Quebec's push for independence in 1970 with an absurdist parallel narrative that crosscuts between the trials of a troubled actress and her activist boyfriend. But its fascinating elements fail to get its scenes unravel: its reach exceeds its grasp.  
West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Barbican Screen

**ORGAZMO** (18, 90 mins)  
Director: Trey Parker  
Starring: Trey Parker  
*Orgazmo* looks like the love-child of *Boogie Nights* and *Flesh Gordon*: a gambling send-up of the porn industry. Parker stars as a Mormon-turned-skid-flick-superstar. Robin Lynne plays the fiancée who stumbles upon his guilty secret.  
West End: Plaza

**THE RED VIOLIN** (15, 130 mins)  
Director: Francis Girard  
Starring: Samuele L. Jackson, Greta Scacchi  
Girard's daisy chain of historical vignettes follows the course of a cursed violin down through the centuries. Unfortunately, a third-shop budget leaves many of the period backdrops looking like cast-offs from a BBC schools programme. More crucially, Girard's bitly narrative leaves his film labouring in third gear throughout.  
West End: Barbican Screen, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Local: Hampstead ABC

**SLAM** (15, 99 mins)  
Director: Marc Levin  
Starring: Saul Williams, Sonya Sohn  
Even if slam-poetry's clanking rhymes make you want to "slam" the perpetrator's head in a car door, Marc Levin's drama still carries an emotional force. Saul Williams plays an Afro-American Everyman, hustled on a drugs charge before finding freedom of expression through his rap stylings. Levin's story is preachy and simplistic: earthy and earnest. Much like slam-poetry itself.  
West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema, Local: Holloway Odeon, New Stratford Picture House

Xan Brooks

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

### THE FIVE BEST FILMS

**Gods and Monsters** (15)  
A droll speculation on the last days of 1930s horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKellen), who is magnetised by the alluring form of his Beverly Hills gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

**Pleasantville** (12)  
Two Nineties teenagers are "sucked" into a favourite Fifties sitcom and exert a dramatic influence on its conformist black-and-white idyll (right). A witty parable about prejudice and change.

**High Art** (18)  
A portrait of the artist as lesbian screw-up. Lisa Cholodenko's bitterly witty take on New York living (and dying) boasts one of the performances of the year from Ally Sheedy.

**The Faculty** (15)  
Kevin Williamson does it again with this sci-fi tale of alien invaders. Beautiful people, a sharp script, subversive morals. Piper Laurie... Why can't all teen films be like this?

**Shakespeare in Love** (15)  
This enjoyable, Oscar-bidden historical romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast.

ANTHONY QUINN AND CHARLOTTE O'SULLIVAN

### THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

**Good** (Donmar Warehouse, London)  
Starring Charles Dance, CP Taylor's play about accommodations with conscience is revived in a sensitive production by Michael Grandage. To 22 May

**Gross Indecency** (Gielgud Theatre, London)  
The artfully fractured form of Moises Kaufman's compelling play about Oscar Wilde manages to present the writer in all his complexity. Booking to 5 Jun

**Forbidden Broadway** (Jermyn Street Theatre, London)  
Deliciously spiteful and tremendously funny selection of musical theatre spoofs (right) from *Sondheim to The Lion King* via Elaine Paige. To 16 May

**Colombe** (Salisbury Playhouse)  
Up-and-coming director Jonathan Church signs off at Salisbury with the characteristically bold and imaginative choice of an Anouilh comedy set in Paris's theatrical demi-monde. To 17 April

**Uncle Vanya** (Mercury Theatre, Colchester)  
Gregory Floy stars in the Chekhov classic - the second leg of Mercury Theatre's brave experiment in forming a resident ensemble of actors for nine months of the year. To 24 April

PAUL TAYLOR

### THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

**Jackson Pollock** (Tate Gallery)  
Big, revelatory retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master), legendary for his great drip paintings, but virtually unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun

**Portraits by Ingres** (National Gallery)  
Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever. Men as icons of power; women as exquisite *mélanges* of flesh and fabric. To 25 Apr

**Henri Michaux** (Whitechapel Gallery)  
He travelled. He wrote. He took drugs. And, inspired by grief and mescaline, he created amazing, wobbly bobbly scribbly fine-grain line drawings (right). To 25 Apr

TOM LUBBOCK

## CINEMA

### WEST END

**ABC PANTON STREET** (0870-902 0404) • Piccadilly  
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm  
Festen 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm  
Hilary and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm, 10.30pm  
Shakespeare in Love 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

**ABC PICCADILLY** (0171-437 3561) • Piccadilly  
Circus Affliction 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

**ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE** (0870-902 0402) • Leicester Square  
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm  
Festen 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm  
Hilary and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm, 10.30pm

**ABC SWISS CENTRE** (0870-902 0403) • Leicester Square  
Circus Affliction 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

**ABC TOTTERHAM COURT ROAD** (0870-902 0414) • Tottenham Court Road  
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm  
Festen 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm  
Hilary and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm, 10.30pm

**ABC TOTTERHAM COURT ROAD** (0870-902 0414) • Tottenham Court Road  
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Hilary and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm, 10.30pm

**SCREEN ON THE HILL** (0171-435 3366) • Belsize Park  
Gods and Monsters 6.40pm, 8.55pm

**THE TRICYCLE CINEMA** (0171-328 1300) • Kilburn  
A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm  
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

**UCI WHITELEYS** (0171-435 3366) • Bayswater  
Bedrooms & Hallways 11.45am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm  
A Bug's Life 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm

**BECKENHAM** (0870-902 0412) • BR: Beckenham Junction  
A Bug's Life 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
The Faculty 2.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm  
Madeline 12.15pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm

**BEXLEYHEATH** (0181-303 1550) • BR: Bexleyheath  
Blast from the Past 2.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm  
A Bug's Life 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

**VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD** (0870-907 0711) • South Kensington  
Bedrooms & Hallways 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 9.00pm  
Gods and Monsters 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 9.00pm

**VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD** (0870-907 0711) • South Kensington  
Bedrooms & Hallways 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 9.00pm  
Gods and Monsters 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 9.00pm

**VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD** (0870-907 0711) • South Kensington  
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Gods and Monsters 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 9.00pm

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Gods and Monsters 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 9.00pm

## CINEMA

### LONDON LOCALS

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American History X 9.30pm

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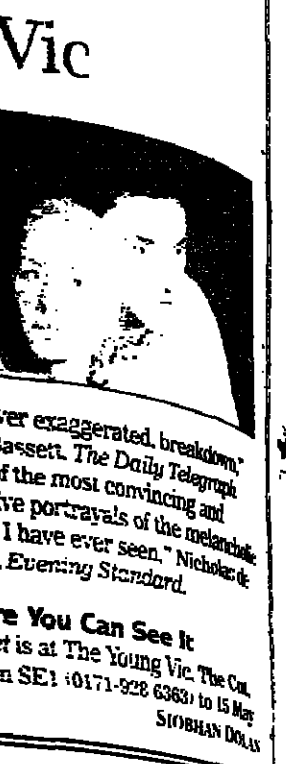
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# DIGITAL, CABLE AND SATELLITE TELEVISION



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Jasent. The Daily Telegraph  
of the most convincing and  
five portraits of the  
I have ever seen." Nicholas  
Evening Standard.

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at the Young Vic. The Cal  
SE1 0171-2928 6030 to 15 May  
SIOBHAN DOLAN

LONDON  
VAISAKHI FESTIVAL SONGS  
... celebrate the Hindu  
... and songs from the  
... Nehru Gallery, Victoria & Albert  
... 55-56-57, 58-59, 60-61, 62-63, 64-65, 66-67, 68-69, 70-71, 72-73, 74-75, 76-77, 78-79, 80-81, 82-83, 84-85, 86-87, 88-89, 90-91, 92-93, 94-95, 96-97, 98-99, 100-101, 102-103, 104-105, 106-107, 108-109, 110-111, 112-113, 114-115, 116-117, 118-119, 120-121, 122-123, 124-125, 126-127, 128-129, 130-131, 132-133, 134-135, 136-137, 138-139, 140-141, 142-143, 144-145, 146-147, 148-149, 150-151, 152-153, 154-155, 156-157, 158-159, 160-161, 162-163, 164-165, 166-167, 168-169, 170-171, 172-173, 174-175, 176-177, 178-179, 180-181, 182-183, 184-185, 186-187, 188-189, 190-191, 192-193, 194-195, 196-197, 198-199, 200-201, 202-203, 204-205, 206-207, 208-209, 210-211, 212-213, 214-215, 216-217, 218-219, 220-221, 222-223, 224-225, 226-227, 228-229, 230-231, 232-233, 234-235, 236-237, 238-239, 240-241, 242-243, 244-245, 246-247, 248-249, 250-251, 252-253, 254-255, 256-257, 258-259, 260-261, 262-263, 264-265, 266-267, 268-269, 270-271, 272-273, 274-275, 276-277, 278-279, 280-281, 282-283, 284-285, 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730-731, 732-733, 734-735, 736-737, 738-739, 740-741, 742-743, 744-745, 746-747, 748-749, 750-751, 752-753, 754-755, 756-757, 758-759, 760-761, 762-763, 764-765, 766-767, 768-769, 770-771, 772-773, 774-775, 776-777, 778-779, 780-781, 782-783, 784-785, 786-787, 788-789, 790-791, 792-793, 794-795, 796-797, 798-799, 800-801, 802-803, 804-805, 806-807, 808-809, 810-811, 812-813, 814-815, 816-817, 818-819, 820-821, 822-823, 824-825, 826-827, 828-829, 830-831, 832-833, 834-835, 836-837, 838-839, 840-841, 842-843, 844-845, 846-847, 848-849, 850-851, 852-853, 854-855, 856-857, 858-859, 860-861, 862-863, 864-865, 866-867, 868-869, 870-871, 872-873, 874-875, 876-877, 878-879, 880-881, 882-883, 884-885, 886-887, 888-889, 890-891, 892-893, 894-895, 896-897, 898-899, 900-901, 902-903, 904-905, 906-907, 908-909, 910-911, 912-913, 914-915, 916-917, 918-919, 920-921, 922-923, 924-925, 926-927, 928-929, 930-931, 932-933, 934-935, 936-937, 938-939, 940-941, 942-943, 944-945, 946-947, 948-949, 950-951, 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ay and Dickens both described 18th-century types thinking 18th-century thoughts, and as the 19th century fades out, it is sometimes difficult to find plausible equivalents. You can see this in BECCA's new two-part version of *Charles Expectations*, which started last night.

Pre-judicially had blatched on to the casting of Charlotte Rampling as a *Barrowinger*; more glamorous Miss Haversham than we're accustomed to. In fact, as far as age and appearance goes, Rampling is ideal – but chemistry is not obvious, but it seems pretty clear from the book that she can't be young. Why, as she seems to be young. Why, any controversy here will have more to do with the appropriateness of the performance, with nuances indicated by drooping eyelids and quizzical, monkeyish moue. Elsewhere, we see solid British character actors doing what we expect: Ian McDiarmid brusque and softly menacing as the lawyer Juggers, Bernard Hill, snarling under a shaven patch, as the convict Magwitch.

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- THE 5,000 FINGERS OF DR. T** (1930s) Sure, the oddest "children's film" to have come out of Hollywood, this fantasy was co-written by a certain "Red" Gelsell – better known as Dr. Seuss. Tommy Rettig of TV's *Loiselle* plays Bart, a boy who'd rather play baseball than take piano lessons with the tyrannical Dr. Tarkovitch (Gus Conrad in a arguably his best performance). Feeling asleep at his piano, Bart dreams himself into Dr. T's castle, where, in the film's most famous image, 500 boys are held captive at a huge piano. There's a vaguely anti-communist subtext, but this is a real treat to that, particularly 1950s stew of surrealism and psychoanalysis.